



March 20, 2020

Dear NYSANA members,

We're starting to see many questions filter in from members as we begin to see the unintentional economic and work-related effects of the coronavirus pandemic come to light. Many justifiable concerns have been raised, and tend to fall into a couple broader categories, which I would like to address.

For SRNAs:

Either by mandates from Universities or Colleges, or by the hospitals and facilities across New York State, most SRNAs are not able to attend clinical. At this point in time, The Council of Accreditation and the National Board for Certification and Recertification have not adjusted the clinical or didactic requirements for graduation and certification. Pearson VUE-owned test centers announced on March 16, 2020 they will be closed for 30-days (until April 16, 2020). The NBCRNA is working with all individuals who are currently scheduled to test during this period of test site closure. Exam eligibilities will be extended to ensure that this downtime (for Pearson) does not negatively impact any student's eligibility to test in the future. Any student or graduate that is impacted by this should send a message to Certification@NBCRNA.com including their name, the date of their appointment, and their contact information.

The NY State Education Department has formulated guidance addressing the needs of students impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. You can access the link for the guidelines on the NYSANA website, however, this does not impact the requirements set forth by our national certifying body as this time. We understand how completely disruptive not being allowed to participate in clinicals is to our students, and therefore are in active discussions with our State Education Department to determine how to best protect the education and training of SRNAs in New York.

For CRNAs:

Recertification: The NBCRNA is currently investigating all options available in an effort to address the concerns of practicing CRNAs in meeting the CPC Program requirements. They are seeking input from State Boards of Nursing, accrediting organizations, and other stakeholders before a final determination is made. Results regarding any amendments to the CPC timeline will be communicated to all CRNAs as soon as possible.

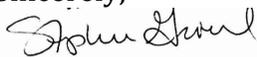
Being asked to work as an RN: The effects of having elective surgeries postponed will unquestionably affect all practicing CRNAs. The AANA has released a position statement regarding if CRNAs are asked to provide critical care services. You can access that statement here: https://www.nysana.com/resource/resmgr/docs/crnas_asked_to_assume_critic.pdf

However, as you read through the AANA statement, please keep in mind the following New York State specifics: CRNAs in New York State are able to provide anesthesia under the Department of Health Code Regulations 405.13 & 755.4, practicing under their RN license. New York State is still one of the only states in the nation to yet recognize CRNAs as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and codify our practice in state law. NYSANA has been advocating this change for decades, and are currently engaging all the appropriate channels to rectify the situation, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

If you happened to have your Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) license, as all NYS nurse anesthesia schools are accredited for, there may be a unique possibility to approach your hospital administrators, ask for an expedited credentialing process, and function in an ACNP capacity throughout this crisis at your facility if you so desire.

As we sort through the inundation of coronavirus information by news broadcasts, email and social media, NYSANA is gathering a list of pertinent information relevant to the CRNA profession in New York State that you can access on the NYSANA website (nysana.com). I thank you all for understanding how completely fluid this situation is, as many updates are coming in by the hour. We will try our best to update our members when new information is available.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Grolemond, MSN, CRNA, ACNP
President, NYSANA