

Due to ongoing discussion on this topic, we are including this information originally sent to NCANA members September 2018. This information remains current in its content.

NCANA Board of Directors, 2019

The North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NCANA) Board of Directors desires to expand on the recent American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Statement on Titles and Descriptors for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) with specifics pertaining to North Carolina practice. North Carolina CRNAs should identify themselves in a manner consistent with laws, rules, local policies, and ethical professional standards. The North Carolina Badge Law (Health Care Practitioner Identification Ch. 90 Ar. 37 § 90-640(c)) states that healthcare practitioners will “wear a badge or other form of identification displaying in readily visible type the individual’s name and the license, certification, or registration held by the practitioner. If the identity of the individual’s license, certification, or registration is commonly expressed by an abbreviation rather than by full title, that abbreviation may be used on the badge or other identification.”

The North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) does not have an official position on the use of other descriptors to clarify the CRNAs role in patient care. Any complaints forwarded to the NCBON regarding improper identification will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

North Carolina CRNAs should ensure they are complying with the badge law and may use other descriptors as outlined in the AANA Statement on Titles and Descriptors as situationally appropriate. The use of additional descriptors may be used to help patients and the public understand the CRNA’s role in providing high quality anesthesia care.

Sincerely,

Paul Packard, DNAP, CRNA

President NC Association of Nurse Anesthetists