

**Arizona Board of Nursing Scope of Practice APRN Questions & Answers**  
**SCOPE OF PRACTICE**  
**Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA)**

**1. What is the certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) scope of practice?**

According to [A.R.S. 32-1634.04](https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01634-04.htm)

(<https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01634-04.htm>) of the Nurse Practice Act, the scope of practice for a CRNA is defined as:

A. A certified registered nurse anesthetist may administer anesthetics under the direction of and in the presence of a physician or surgeon in connection with the preoperative, intraoperative or postoperative care of a patient or as part of a procedure performed by a physician or surgeon in the following settings:

1. A health care institution.
2. An office of a health care professional who is licensed pursuant to chapter 7, 11, 13 or 17 of this title.
3. An ambulance.

B. In connection with the preoperative, intraoperative or postoperative care of a patient or as part of the procedure in the settings prescribed in subsection A of this section, a certified registered nurse anesthetist as part of the care or procedure may:

1. Issue a medication order for drugs or medications, including controlled substances, to be administered by a licensed, certified or registered health care provider.
2. Assess the health status of an individual as that status relates to the relative risks associated with anesthetic management of an individual.
3. Obtain informed consent.
4. Order and evaluate laboratory and diagnostic test results and perform point-of-care testing that the certified registered nurse anesthetist is qualified to perform.
5. Order and evaluate radiographic imaging studies that the certified registered nurse anesthetist is qualified to order and interpret.
6. Identify, develop, implement and evaluate an anesthetic plan of care for a patient to promote, maintain and restore health.
7. Take action necessary in response to an emergency situation.
8. Perform therapeutic procedures that the certified registered nurse anesthetist is qualified to perform.

C. A certified registered nurse anesthetist's prescribing authority to administer anesthetics or to issue a medication order as prescribed by this section does not include the ability to write or issue a prescription for medications to be filled or dispensed for a patient for use outside of the settings prescribed in subsection A of this section.

D. A physician or surgeon is not liable for any act or omission of a certified registered nurse anesthetist who orders or administers anesthetics under this section.

2. Can a **certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA)** perform a preadmission and pre-procedural comprehensive history and physical examination for determining a patient's anesthesia risk?

Yes, according to the [Advisory Opinion: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Performance of Preadmission and Pre-Procedural Comprehensive History and Physical Exam](https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/ao-certified-registered-nurse-anesthetists-performance-of-preadmission-and-pre-procedural-comprehensive-history-and-physical-exam.pdf) (<https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/ao-certified-registered-nurse-anesthetists-performance-of-preadmission-and-pre-procedural-comprehensive-history-and-physical-exam.pdf>), it is within the scope of practice for a CRNA to perform a preadmission and pre-procedural comprehensive history and physical examination for determining a patient's anesthesia risk. According to [A.R.S. 32-1634.04](https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01634-04.htm) (<https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01634-04.htm>), the CRNA may assess the health status of an individual as that status relates to the relative risks associated with anesthetic management of an individual.

3. Can a **certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA)** provide epidural analgesia without the presence of a physician?

Yes, according to the [Advisory Opinion: Epidural Analgesia by Nurse Anesthetist](https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/ao-epidural-analgesia-by-nurse-anesthetist.pdf) (<https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/ao-epidural-analgesia-by-nurse-anesthetist.pdf>), it is within the scope of practice for a CRNA to provide epidural **analgesia** without the presence of a physician. If **anesthesia** is to be administered through the epidural, physician presence is required per [A.R.S. 32-1634.04](https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01634-04.htm) (<https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01634-04.htm>). Nurse Anesthetists are qualified to provide epidural analgesia. There is a clinical distinction between the administration of epidural analgesia and epidural anesthesia. Because A.R.S. § 32-1634.04 requires physician presence during the administration of anesthesia, and not analgesia, physician presence is not required for a Nurse Anesthetist to administer epidural analgesia.

**As a licensed/certified professional you are HELD ACCOUNTABLE for the information and any requirements in the linked document noted above.**

4. Can a **certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA)** perform medical esthetic procedures?

According to the [Advisory Opinion: Medical Aesthetic Procedures Performed by Licensed Nurses, Licensed Cosmetologist, Licensed Aestheticians and Certified Laser Technologists](https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/AO%20Medical%20Esthetic%20Procedures%20Performed%20by%20Licensed%20Nu) (<https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/AO%20Medical%20Esthetic%20Procedures%20Performed%20by%20Licensed%20Nu>

[rses%20rev%2003.19.pdf](#)), it is within the scope of practice of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who can demonstrate the necessary education, knowledge, judgement, skills and licensure/certification, where applicable, to perform medical aesthetic procedures on the appropriate client population. Although a CRNA is an APRN, the CRNA is not educated nor trained in medical aesthetic procedures and therefore it is not within their scope of practice to perform medical esthetic procedures.

However, the CRNA could perform medical esthetics as a registered nurse working within a registered nursing role. In the registered nursing role, the CRNA is required to demonstrate the necessary education, knowledge, judgement, skills, and licensure/certification for medical esthetics/cosmetic procedures.

Medical Esthetic procedures shall be performed under the supervision of a licensed independent practitioner (LIP) who has medical/surgical training and possesses specific knowledge, skills and abilities in medical esthetics/cosmetic procedures.

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**5. Can a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) serve as a medical director for aesthetic facilities?**

According to the [Advisory Opinion: Medical Aesthetic Procedures Performed by Licensed Nurses, Licensed Cosmetologist, Licensed Aestheticians and Certified Laser Technologists \(https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/AO%20Medical%20Esthetic%20Procedures%20Performed%20by%20Licensed%20Nurses%20rev%2003.19.pdf\)](#), an APRN in accordance of state statutes and rules may assume responsibilities as a medical director for aesthetic facilities, overseeing the care and treatment provided by APRN, RN's, LPN's, certified nursing assistants and unlicensed personnel. Medical director responsibilities include the maintenance of education, competency and certification for the medical aesthetic procedures under their supervision. Although a CRNA is an APRN, the CRNA is not educated nor trained in medical aesthetic procedures and therefore it is not within their scope of practice to perform medical esthetic procedures nor serve as a medical director for aesthetic facilities.

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