



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Elizabeth Molnar

Sub. S.B. 301 (L_132_2596-1)

132nd General Assembly

(As Pending in S. Health, Human Services & Medicaid)

Sen. Jordan

BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) to select and order anesthesia.
 - Allows the CRNA to select, order, and administer drugs other than anesthesia during the perianesthesia period in order to treat conditions related to the administration of anesthesia.
 - Permits the CRNA to direct nurses and respiratory therapists to administer drugs other than anesthesia.
-

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Certified registered nurse anesthetists

The bill makes four main changes to the law governing the practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). First, it authorizes a CRNA to select and order anesthesia. Second, it permits a CRNA – during the perianesthesia period – to select, order, and administer drugs other than anesthesia for conditions related to the administration of anesthesia. Third, the bill allows a CRNA to direct registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and respiratory therapists to administer those drugs. Fourth, it modifies the activities a CRNA may perform and authorizes additional activities, including ordering and evaluating diagnostic tests and establishing anesthesia care plans.

Supervision and practice

The bill maintains the current law requirement that a CRNA practice under the supervision of a dentist, physician, or podiatrist. Supervision is described as being

under the direction of a supervising practitioner acting within that practitioner's scope of practice.¹ In relation to this supervision, the services a CRNA is authorized to provide under current law are described as follows:

- With supervision and in the immediate presence of the supervising practitioner, a CRNA may administer anesthesia and perform anesthesia induction, maintenance, and emergence;
- With supervision, a CRNA may perform preanesthetic preparation, postanesthesia care, and clinical support functions.²

The bill, however, modifies some of the services that a CRNA currently may perform and authorizes a CRNA to perform other services. The bill retains an existing provision specifying that a CRNA must act in a manner that is consistent with the CRNA's education and certification and in accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio Board of Nursing.³

Selecting, ordering, and administering anesthesia and other drugs

Current law grants each advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) specialty, other than the CRNA specialty, authority to prescribe or furnish most drugs and therapeutic devices as part of the APRN license.⁴ Accordingly, CRNAs lack authority at present to select and order anesthesia and other drugs.⁵

The bill authorizes a CRNA to select and order anesthesia. This authority is in addition to the CRNA's existing authority to administer anesthesia, which, under current law maintained by the bill, must be performed in the immediate presence of a supervising practitioner.

The bill permits a CRNA to select, order, and administer fluids, treatments, and drugs for conditions related to the administration of anesthesia. This may occur as necessary for patient management and care in the perianesthesia period.⁶

¹ R.C. 4723.01(M), 4723.43(B), 4723.432(B), 4731.27(C), and 4731.35(A).

² R.C. 4723.01(M) and 4723.43(B).

³ R.C. 4723.43(B).

⁴ See R.C. 4723.43 and 4723.481, not in the bill, with respect to certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists.

⁵ R.C. 4723.43(B).

⁶ R.C. 4723.43(B) and 4729.01(I).



In addition, the bill authorizes a CRNA to select, order, and administer pain relief therapies during the perianesthesia period.⁷

The bill provides that it does not authorize a CRNA to prescribe a drug for use outside the facility or other setting where the nurse provides anesthesia care.⁸

Clinical functions

Current law authorizes a CRNA – with practitioner supervision – to perform "clinical support functions." Under the bill, a CRNA may instead perform "clinical functions" – still with supervision – but only if they are (1) completed pursuant to a physician consultation or (2) specified in the clinical experience standards established for nurse anesthetist education programs by a national accreditation organization selected by the Board of Nursing.⁹

The bill also authorizes the CRNA, when performing clinical functions, to order fluids, treatments, drugs, and one or more diagnostic tests and to evaluate the results of those tests.

Delegation

The bill authorizes a CRNA to direct registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and respiratory therapists to do the following for patient management and care in either the perianesthesia period or when the CRNA is performing clinical functions:

- Administer fluids, treatments, and drugs for the treatment of conditions related to administration of anesthesia;
- Provide supportive care, including monitoring vital signs, conducting electrocardiograms, and performing intravenous therapy.¹⁰

The persons being directed by a CRNA must be authorized by law to administer fluids, treatments, and drugs and to provide supportive care.

⁷ R.C. 4723.43(B).

⁸ R.C. 4723.43(B).

⁹ R.C. 4723.43(B).

¹⁰ R.C. 4723.43(B) and 4761.17(A) and (C).



Revised and additional services and activities

In addition to the changes in a CRNA's practice described above, the bill permits a CRNA to do all of the following:

- Perform and document evaluations and assessments during the perianesthesia period, which may include ordering and evaluating one or more diagnostic tests and consulting with one or more other health professionals;
- Establish anesthesia care plans and determine whether planned anesthesia is appropriate;
- Obtain informed consent for anesthesia care;
- Perform and document postanesthesia care preparation and evaluation; (Existing law refers only to the authority to perform postanesthesia care.)
- Perform postanesthesia care assessments, including on admission to or release or discharge from postanesthesia recovery areas.¹¹

The bill maintains current provisions specifying that a CRNA is authorized to perform anesthesia induction, maintenance, and emergence.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-23-18

S0301 (L-2596-1)-132.docx/ec

¹¹ R.C. 4723.43(B).

