

1 SENATE BILL 78
2 57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025
3 INTRODUCED BY
4 Michael Padilla and Linda M. Trujillo
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO NURSING; PROVIDING FOR AN INDEPENDENT ROLE FOR
12 CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS.
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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

15 SECTION 1. Section 61-3-23.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991,
16 Chapter 190, Section 15, as amended) is amended to read:

17 "61-3-23.3. CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST--
18 QUALIFICATIONS--LICENSURE--PRACTICE--ENDORSEMENT--EXPEDITED
19 LICENSURE.--

20 A. The board may license for advanced practice as a
21 certified registered nurse anesthetist an applicant who
22 furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the
23 applicant:

- 24 (1) is a registered nurse;
25 (2) has successfully completed a nurse

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1 anesthesia education program accredited by the council on
2 accreditation of nurse anesthesia educational programs;
3 provided that, if the applicant is initially licensed by the
4 board or a board in another licensing jurisdiction after
5 January 1, 2001, the program shall be at a master's level or
6 higher; and

7 (3) is certified by the national board of
8 certification and recertification for nurse anesthetists.

9 B. A certified registered nurse anesthetist may
10 provide preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative
11 anesthesia care and related services, including ordering of
12 diagnostic tests, in accordance with the current [~~American~~
13 ~~association of nurse anesthetists~~¹] guidelines for nurse
14 anesthesia practice issued by the national professional
15 association representing certified registered nurse
16 anesthetists.

17 C. Certified registered nurse anesthetists shall
18 function in either an [~~interdependent~~] independent role [~~as a~~
19 ~~member of a health care team in which the medical care of the~~
20 ~~patient is directed by a licensed physician, osteopathic~~
21 ~~physician, dentist or podiatrist licensed in New Mexico~~
22 ~~pursuant to the Dental Health Care Act, the Medical Practice~~
23 ~~Act or the Podiatry Act. The certified registered nurse~~
24 ~~anesthetist shall collaborate with the licensed physician,~~
25 ~~osteopathic physician, dentist or podiatrist concerning the~~

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1 ~~anesthesia care of the patient]~~ or in collaboration with other
2 health care providers in accordance with the policies of a
3 health care facility. As used in this subsection,
4 "collaboration" means the process in which each health care
5 provider contributes the health care provider's respective
6 expertise. ~~[Collaboration includes systematic formal planning~~
7 ~~and evaluation between the health care professionals involved~~
8 ~~in the collaborative practice arrangement.]~~ As used in this
9 subsection, "independent role" means performing any action,
10 including determining, preparing, administering or monitoring
11 anesthesia care or anesthesia-related services, without the
12 supervision of another health care provider.

13 D. A certified registered nurse anesthetist who has
14 fulfilled the requirements for prescriptive authority in the
15 area of anesthesia practice is authorized to prescribe and
16 administer therapeutic measures, including dangerous drugs and
17 controlled substances included in Schedules II through V of the
18 Controlled Substances Act within the emergency procedures,
19 perioperative care or perinatal care environments. Dangerous
20 drugs and controlled substances, pursuant to the Controlled
21 Substances Act, that have been prepared, packaged or fabricated
22 by a registered pharmacist or doses of drugs that have been
23 prepackaged by a pharmaceutical manufacturer in accordance with
24 the Pharmacy Act and the New Mexico Drug, Device and Cosmetic
25 Act may be prescribed and administered.

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1 E. A certified registered nurse anesthetist who has
2 fulfilled the requirements for prescriptive authority in the
3 area of anesthesia practice may prescribe in accordance with
4 rules of the board. The board shall adopt rules concerning a
5 prescriptive authority formulary for certified registered nurse
6 anesthetists that shall be based on the scope of practice of
7 certified registered nurse anesthetists. The board, in
8 collaboration with the New Mexico medical board, shall develop
9 the formulary. Certified registered nurse anesthetists who
10 prescribe shall do so in accordance with the prescriptive
11 authority formulary.

12 F. The board shall issue an expedited license to an
13 applicant without an examination if the person has been duly
14 licensed as a certified registered nurse anesthetist in another
15 licensing jurisdiction and is in good standing with the
16 licensing board in that licensing jurisdiction. The board
17 shall expedite the issuance of the license in accordance with
18 Section 61-1-31.1 NMSA 1978 within thirty days. If the board
19 issues an expedited license to a person whose prior licensing
20 jurisdiction did not require examination, the board may require
21 that person to pass an examination before applying for license
22 renewal. An applicant licensed under the laws of a territory
23 or foreign country shall demonstrate proficiency in English.

24 G. A health care facility may adopt policies
25 relating to the providing of anesthesia care.

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H. A certified registered nurse anesthetist licensed by the board shall maintain this certification with the national board of certification and recertification for nurse anesthetists."