

Redeploying CRNAs During COVID-19



MEETING CRITICAL PATIENT NEEDS

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, health care leaders nationwide are looking for better ways to address surging patient volumes. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), with experience in rapid systems assessment, airway management, fluid resuscitation and general anesthesia delivery, have proven to be a valuable resource in providing critical care to the influx of COVID-19 patients.

Redeploying CRNAs outside of traditional operating room roles can equip organizations with a much-needed critical care workforce to help manage growing patient volumes and support innovative care delivery.

Are you considering the redeployment of CRNAs during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Organizations need an intentional and thoughtful strategy for CRNA placement and utilization.

Key Actions for CRNA Deployment

Complete an [inventory of CRNA skills sets](#)

Involve CRNA and advanced practice provider leadership in [emergency response planning](#)

[Develop a cross-training plan](#) that focuses on CRNAs working in alternative care sites such as intensive care units and emergency rooms

Stay up to date on government/regulatory changes to [remain compliant with federal and state law](#)

Consider utilizing CRNAs on [vascular access and airway teams](#)

Implement a process for [rapid CRNA deployment](#) in new care settings while maintaining capacity for emergency surgeries

[Establish electronic health record processes](#) to allow for appropriate documentation outside of the operating room

Create a plan to support the need for [partnering and resiliency care](#)

Source: American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. (2020). [CRNAs Asked to Assume Critical Care Responsibilities During the COVID 19 Pandemic.](#)

