

# Dental Anesthesia Permits



"Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) possess the education, training, and skills to provide safe, high-quality, and cost-effective care as members of the patient-centered care team in all settings, including DENTAL OFFICES."

**By current law, if a general anesthetic agent is administered [by CRNAs] in a dental office, the dentist shall hold a permit authorized by Section 1646. (Nurse Practice Act 2827)**

The current restrictive permit requirements for dental anesthesia:

- Require the dentist to apply for an anesthesia permit when choosing CRNAs to administer anesthesia in their office. CRNAs have been practicing in dental offices for years despite this artificial barrier.
- Create an anticompetitive disincentive for dentists to use CRNAs
- Reduce access to dental care - this increases wait times for people who need to maintain their dental health

***CRNAs would like to apply for dental anesthesia permits with the same terms as physician applicants and provide solutions.***

## PROCESS to Obtain General Anesthesia Permit for a Licensed Dentist <sup>[1]</sup>:

1. Completion of an ADSA <sup>[2]</sup> approved residency program in anesthesia of not less than one calendar year
2. Completion of an ADA <sup>[3]</sup> accredited graduate program in oral and maxillofacial surgery
3. Fellowship in anesthesia approved by ADSA Permit Renewal:
4. Complete 24 units of continuing education in approved courses related to general anesthesia
5. Complete an advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) course
6. Prior to the issuance or renewal of a permit, the board may require an onsite inspection and evaluation of the licensee and the facility. Every dentist issued a permit shall have an onsite inspection and evaluation at least once every five years.

## PROPOSED PROCESS to Obtain General Anesthesia Permit for a CRNA:

1. CRNA independently applies for and maintains the dental anesthesia permit.

>> CRNAs graduate with a master's or doctorate degree from an accredited nurse anesthesia postgraduate program. <sup>[4]</sup> <<

>> CRNAs maintain 100+ units of continuing education in the specialty of anesthesia PLUS 4 core modules on recently emerging information and evidence-based knowledge. <<

>> CRNAs obtain ACLS <sup>[5]</sup> and PALS <sup>[6]</sup> certification as critical care nurses prior to becoming CRNAs and maintain those certifications as CRNAs. <<

>> CRNAs can manage and be responsible for the onsite inspections required of the DBC <sup>[7]</sup>, allowing the dentist to continue their schedule of seeing patients. <<

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## CRNAs provide the full range of anesthetic services required within a dental practice while facilitating a safe and patient-centered environment.



### + Experts in anesthesia care:

CRNAs are recognized airway experts and practice airway management every day.

The anesthesia education and training required to become a CRNA are more extensive than the education and training required of permitted dentists. CRNAs are experts in sedation and anesthesia delivery, pain management, advanced airway management, shared airway, hemodynamic and physiologic monitoring, and emergency management.



### + Cost Benefits:

The CRNA (not the dentist) would pay the \$500 application fee, the \$325 renewal fee every two years, and the \$2000 onsite inspection required every five years.

If a dentist wanted to add anesthesia services to their practice, they would have to stop providing dental services while they find the anesthesia cases to make them eligible for the permit.



### + Professional liability:

CRNAs are responsible for the patient care they provide and are able to obtain their own malpractice insurance coverage.

There are equivalent insurance premiums for dentists utilizing CRNAs and physicians for anesthesiology services.<sup>[8]</sup>



### + No supervision required:

California law does NOT require a physician and surgeon, or dentist to supervise a CRNA when the CRNA is administering anesthesia in any setting.<sup>[9]</sup>



### + Expanded patient care and services:

CRNAs can assist a dental practice in aspects such as staff education, policy and procedure development, and quality improvement initiatives.

Additional services include, but are not limited to, patient and caregiver education, pre-anesthesia assessment and evaluation, establishing an anesthetic plan, patient monitoring throughout the procedure, post-anesthesia care, and emergency management.

#### REFERENCES:

[1] Dental Board of California (DBC) -- [https://www.dbc.ca.gov/licenses/dds/permits/general\\_anesthesia.shtml](https://www.dbc.ca.gov/licenses/dds/permits/general_anesthesia.shtml)  
 [2] American Dental Society of Anesthesiology (ADSA)  
 [3] American Dental Association (ADA)  
 [4] Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

[5] Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)  
 [6] Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)  
 [7] Dental Board of California (DBC)  
 [8] Effective Jan. 1, 2014, per the The Dentists Insurance Company (TDIC)  
 [9] Court of Appeal ruling (A131049) & Nurse Anesthetist Act, (Business and Professions Code, section 2828)