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# The Anatomy of a California Hit Job & the Resulting Crisis of Confidence

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## Background

In January 2024, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued an “Immediate Jeopardy” citation against Stanislaus Surgical Hospital, targeting Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) practicing independently. This marked the beginning of a troubling trend: regulatory overreach that undermines established law and the Medicare “opt out” for CRNA supervision.

## Escalating Surveys

Over the following months, CDPH and its surveyors expanded these challenges to multiple hospitals and surgery centers across California, often led by physician anesthesiologist surveyor Dr. Chante Buntin. CRNAs were questioned about DEA licensure, supervision requirements, and prescriptive authority—despite longstanding legal authority allowing CRNAs to practice independently.

- **May 2024:** Doctors Hospital of Modesto cited for CRNA “noncompliance” while physician-related failures went unaddressed.
- **June 2024 – April 2025:** A series of inspections and accreditations sought to restrict CRNA practice, from limiting emergency care to requiring physician supervision in violation of Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) authority.

## The Impact

These surveys created a chilling effect on CRNA practice, reducing scope of care, straining hospital resources, and placing patients at risk by limiting timely access to anesthesia providers.

## Why It Matters

Ensuring CRNAs can practice to the full extent of their education and training safeguards patient access to safe, timely, and cost-effective anesthesia care—especially in communities where physician anesthesiologists are scarce.

## Have questions?

We're happy to help!

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