

CHAPTER 10
SECTION 2.4

NURSE ANESTHETISTS

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I. ISSUE

Benefits for anesthesia services rendered by a nurse anesthetist.

II. POLICY

Anesthesia services rendered by a nurse anesthetist are covered when the following criteria are met:

A. There is a physician referral and the anesthesia services are performed under the supervision of a physician or dentist;

B. The nurse anesthetist is operating within the scope of his or her license or certification required in the jurisdiction where practicing; and

C. The nurse is a licensed registered nurse.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. A fee-for-service billing is acceptable when the nurse anesthetist is an independent individual professional provider, that is, not employed by an institution, or physician anesthesiology group or individual practitioner.

B. Services rendered by nurse anesthetists who are employees of an institution or physician anesthesiology group or individual practitioner, will only be reimbursed when billed by the institution or physician anesthesiology group or individual practitioner for which the nurse anesthetist is employed.

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