

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Bissailon, Felag, LaMountain, Tikoian, de la Cruz,
and Rogers

Date Introduced: March 07, 2025

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws entitled "Nurses" is hereby amended by
adding thereto the following section:

5-34-3.1. Safe administration of sedation.

(a) Registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), other than
licensed certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), as defined in this chapter, and RNs
enrolled in a nurse anesthesiology training program approved by the Council on Accreditation of
Nurse Anesthesia Educational programs (COA) or its predecessors or successors, shall not
administer agents that are primarily used and classified as general anesthetics for minimal,
moderate, deep sedation, or general anesthesia including, propofol, Etomidate, sodium thiopental,
methohexital, or volatile gases (e.g. sevoflurane, isoflurane, desflurane), nor shall any RN or Non-
CRNA APRN administer or manage deep sedation or general anesthesia for any diagnostic,
therapeutic, or surgical procedures using any drug or medication.

(b) For critical life-saving situations requiring the immediate and emergent facilitation of
airway management (rapid sequence intubation) or to maintain sedation for tracheally intubated
and mechanically ventilated patients, an RN acting as the third hand of a licensed APRN or
physician, or an APRN may initiate, titrate, and bolus intravenous/intraosseous (IV/IO) agents. An
APRN, may initiate, titrate, and bolus intravenous/intraosseous (IV/IO) agents if the APRN is
trained in airway management and acting within their scope of practice and approved by their
governing body, as authorized in this section.

1 (c) For emergency situations where there is an imminent threat to life or limb, the APRN
2 or RN can administer anesthetic medications to preserve patient life including, but not limited to,
3 cardiac arrest, respiratory failure, and increased intracranial pressure, acting within their scope of
4 practice and approved by their governing body.

5 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the administration and/or titration of anesthetics
6 for patients being sedated in a critical care setting (emergency room, intensive care unit) and are
7 tracheally intubated, and mechanically ventilated by a RN or APRN acting within the scope of
8 practice and approved by their governing body.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 5-34.2 of the General Laws entitled "Nurse Anesthetists" is hereby
10 amended by adding thereto the following section:

11 **5-34.2-2.1. Safe administration of sedation.**

12 (a) Registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), other than
13 licensed certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), as defined in this chapter, and RNs
14 enrolled in a nurse anesthesiology training program approved by the Council on Accreditation of
15 Nurse Anesthesia Educational programs (COA) or its predecessors or successors, shall not
16 administer agents that are primarily used and classified as general anesthetics for minimal,
17 moderate, deep sedation, or general anesthesia including, propofol, Etomidate, sodium thiopental,
18 methohexital, or volatile gases (e.g. sevoflurane, isoflurane, desflurane), nor shall any RN or Non-
19 CRNA APRN administer or manage deep sedation or general anesthesia for any diagnostic,
20 therapeutic, or surgical procedures using any drug or medication.

21 (b) For critical life-saving situations requiring the immediate and emergent facilitation of
22 airway management (rapid sequence intubation) or to maintain sedation for tracheally intubated
23 and mechanically ventilated patients, an RN acting as the third hand of a licensed APRN or
24 physician, or an APRN may initiate, titrate, and bolus intravenous/intraosseous (IV/IO) agents. An
25 APRN, may initiate, titrate, and bolus intravenous/intraosseous (IV/IO) agents if the APRN is
26 trained in airway management and acting within their scope of practice and approved by their
27 governing body, as authorized in this section.

28 (c) For emergency situations where there is an imminent threat to life or limb, the APRN
29 or RN can administer anesthetic medications to preserve patient life including, but not limited to,
30 cardiac arrest, respiratory failure, and increased intracranial pressure, acting within their scope of
31 practice and approved by their governing body.

32 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the administration and/or titration of anesthetics
33 for patients being sedated in a critical care setting (emergency room, intensive care unit) and are
34 tracheally intubated, and mechanically ventilated by a RN or APRN acting within the scope of

1 [practice and approved by their governing body.](#)

2 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

1 This act would establish that the elective and/or independent administration of propofol,
2 Etomidate, sodium thiopental, methohexital, and volatile anesthetics for any surgery or procedure
3 is not, generally, within the “scope of practice” of registered nurses and non-CRNA advance
4 practice registered nurses as defined in chapter 34.3 of title 5 and would restrict the administration
5 of these medications to licensed certified registered nurse anesthetists. It would also detail each of
6 those limited emergency circumstances where a registered nurse and advanced practice registered
7 nurses, may safely administer sedation, such as critical life-saving or emergency situations where
8 there is an imminent threat to life or limb. This act would detail each of those limited emergency
9 circumstances where registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses, may safely
10 administer sedation, such as critical life-saving or emergency situations where there is an imminent
11 threat to life or limb.

12 This act would take effect upon passage.

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