



American Association of  
**NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY**

## Prior Approval Application

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### Anesthesia Inservice Program

These guidelines are intended to assist providers who are applying to AANA for prior approval of an **anesthesia inservice program they want to present at a future date**. All AANA prior approved CE programs provide Class A CE credit/MAC Ed credit.

An inservice activity is a planned, ongoing educational program provided by an employer, usually held on a regular basis and intended to assist the nurse anesthetist in acquiring, maintaining, and increasing competence in fulfilling assigned responsibilities specific to the expectations of that employer. Prior approval cannot be awarded to inservice CE programs that have already been presented. Life support courses and seminars cannot be included in the inservice program approval. CE programs and provider-directed independent study/home study programs each have their own specific application guidelines which can be viewed along with the *AANA Continuing Education Program*, on the AANA website at [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com) or on the CE Portal homepage.

#### **Application Submission**

The prior approval application process is web-based via the CE Portal at [www.aana.com/ceportal](http://www.aana.com/ceportal). The program provider must have a User ID and Password that is specific to the program provider. Contact the AANA CE Department to request login in credentials at [continuingeducation@aana.com](mailto:continuingeducation@aana.com). Once logged in, progress through the online application at your own pace, completing the tabs in order. Required application materials can be attached to this application during the next steps. This application will not be submitted to AANA for review until the end of the application has been reached and any additional materials and associated application fee have been submitted. Until that time, the entered information will be stored on the site providing navigation instructions within the CE Portal are followed, and you will be able to move forward and backward throughout the application process until submission. This application is best used with Google Chrome or Internet Explorer. Mobile devices are not recommended.

Credit card payment is requested at the end of the application process. The fee applies to each application submitted.

#### **Program Coordinator**

The program coordinator is the individual who will be the liaison between the provider and the AANA. This individual receives the AANA approval notice and all correspondence related to the program. It is important to include the requested contact information for the coordinator in the application, so the coordinator can be easily reached by the CE Department during the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Central Time.

**[aana.com](http://aana.com) | CRNA focused. CRNA inspired.**

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The CE Department must be notified of any changes affecting its communication with the provider or program coordinator such as a change in the mailing address, telephone number, email address, administrative structure, the individual responsible for coordinating the CE program and recordkeeping, or any other information pertinent to the program.

**Materials to Submit with the Application**

- A. **Application fee.** The application fee is determined based on the number of Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits requested and is automatically calculated in the CE portal. The fee structure is \$360 for up to 12 Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits requested and \$18 per Class A CE credit/MAC Ed credit over 12 that is requested. The payment is the last step in the application process before the application is submitted for review and is payable via credit card. If paying by check, select the pay by check option and an invoice will be immediately available to you in the CE portal. The invoice must accompany the check when submitting the payment to AANA. The fee is nonrefundable and nontransferable if the application does not meet the CE requirements or the provider withdraws the application.
  
- B. **Program Outline I tab.** Progress through the Program Outline I tab providing the detailed information requested in each field. Attach the Certificate of Completion and the Learner Assessment and Program Evaluation form where requested.

**Requirements for the certificate of completion** to be issued to all participants, including nurse anesthetists - both AANA members and nonmembers - who complete the program. The AANA logo cannot be used on any certificates for programs that are not sponsored by the AANA. Certificates must contain the following information:

1. Name of participant;
2. AANA ID number;
3. Name, city, and state of program provider;
4. Title of CE program;
5. Date of CE program;
6. City and state for location of CE program, if applicable;
7. Number of Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits awarded to the individual;
8. AANA code number and expiration date;
9. Number of Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits approved by AANA;
10. Provider signature verifying completion.
11. California Board of Registered Nursing (CABRN) provider statement. If the program provider does not have a CABRN number, the following AANA CABRN statement must be used.

AANA is an approved provider by the California Board of Registered Nursing, CEP #10862.

Note that items 8 and 9 above need to appear in the AANA prior approval statement as shown in the following format:

This program has been prior approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology for XX Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits; Code Number XXXXXXXX; Expiration Date XX/XX/XX.

**Requirements for the Learner Assessment and Program Evaluation instrument** that will be issued which enables all participants to assess the following: (1) learner's achievement of each objective; (2) teaching effectiveness of each faculty member or presenter; (3) relevance of content to objectives; (4) effectiveness of teaching methods; (5) achievement of personal learning objectives; (6) state one item learned that will improve participants nurse anesthesia practice; and (7) state any barriers to implement what is learned.

The Learner Assessment and Program Evaluation instrument must also include a field for the participant's name and AANA ID#, as completion of the evaluation tool is required to receive Class A CE credit/MAC Ed credit.

The required form of measurement on the Learner Assessment and Program Evaluation instrument is a defined 5-point Likert scale or higher form of measurement.

C. **Program Outline II tab.** An entry for each presentation within in the program must be created following the guidelines below.

1. The title of each presentation, such as journal club, M and M conference or the topic of each lecture in the program if specific lectures are planned; Life support courses and seminars cannot be included in the inservice program approval.
2. The faculty must include the name and credentials of the presenter. If the specific presenter of an Inservice presentation is not known, Staff CRNAs may be entered. For associate (resident) member presenters, all educational programs seeking AANA CE approval must, a) list the associate member's proper professional and earned academic credentials (e.g. RN, BSN and b) provide the name of a specific faculty sponsor or mentor, along with the professional credentials of each sponsor or mentor (i.e. CRNA, DNP, PhD or MD) for each associate member identified as delivering CE-earning content.
3. The relationship of the content to nurse anesthesia practice must be clear, as reflected in the purpose, learner objectives, and program content outline.
4. An hour-by-hour breakdown of the program and the time of each presentation in minutes. Enter the begin and end time and day for each inservice presentation. One CE credit is awarded for each 60 minutes of presentation. Partial credits are awarded in 0.25 increments. Partial hours not listed in 0.25 increments are rounded down to the next 0.25 increment. The number of credits reflected in this program schedule **must** match the number of credits requested on the application and the application fee per credit.
5. A minimum of four general outcomes for each part of the inservice program. Submit four general outcomes for a morbidity and mortality conference, four general outcomes for a journal club, etc. The terms "learner objectives" and "learner outcomes" are used interchangeably in the *AANA Continuing Education Program*. The objectives should be written as statements that identify the participant's expected mastery after attendance at the program.
  - *Example of a correctly written learner objective:* At the conclusion of this presentation, the participant should be able to calculate the appropriate drug dosage for the new anesthetic agent based on the patient's weight.
  - Presenter's goals are not acceptable learner objectives. For example, "To inform the nurse anesthetist about the latest trends in outpatient surgery" is the goal of the presenter, not a measurable learner objective.

- Inservice programs with specific planned lectures that are presented on a weekly or monthly basis must have one specific learner outcome for each selected topic for which CE credit is requested.
6. Teaching methods. Interactive video instruction, CD-Rom, DVDs, or other similar materials, as well as participation in teleconferences and demonstrations, may be submitted as content **only** if a moderator or facilitator is present to lead a discussion, answer technical questions relative to the presentation, hand out evaluations, and record attendance. The materials may take the place of an in-person lecturer; they cannot be approved by themselves.
  7. All approved providers must ensure that their continuing education activities are free from bias and all presenters (faculty) must declare vested interests and any conflicts in interests (real or potential/perceived). A provider must ensure that the following decisions were made free of the control of a commercial interest: (a) Identification of educational needs; (b) Determination of educational objectives; (c) Selection and presentation of content; (d) Selection of all persons and organizations that will be in a position to control the content of the educational activity; (e) Selection of educational methods; (f) Assessment and Evaluation of the activity. Refer to the AANA CE Program on [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com) for further information.
- D. As of August 1, 2016, the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) requires 60 hours of Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits over a 4-year CPC/MAC cycle. Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits are earned from assessed continuing education. An assessment can take many forms, such as multiple-choice questions, simulation demonstrations, case studies, or self-assessment.

**Assessment Method.** Program providers should address their selection of assessment type/format as well and explain how it supports the learning objectives for the activity. Provide a description of the assessment method that will be used to measure the level of learning attained in the program. Examples include: skills check-off, discussion or question/answer session, or post-test. If an assessment instrument is used, a copy must be provided with the prior-approval application.

Criteria:

- a. The assessment method must not only meet the needs of the participants but also support current practice for nurse anesthetists in education, administration, research, or clinical practice.
  - b. Assessment methods must support and facilitate learner engagement and maximize the achievement of identified objectives.
  - c. The assessment for the CE activity must be consistent with the learner objectives and appropriate to the content being presented.
  - d. The minimum acceptable form of assessment identifies how the learning activity informs and/or improves practice is self-assessment.
- E. **CE content areas on certificate of completion.** Several state boards of nursing require documented credit in specific content areas for a nurse anesthetist to renew their APRN license. Although this is not mandatory, we do suggest that the number of CE credits earned during your program in content areas such as pharmacology, HIV/AIDS or legal issues be designated on the certificate of completion to the nurse anesthetist. This will provide the CRNAs with the documentation they are required to submit without the need to contact you after the program for this information. Note: While the AANA approves

CE credit, the AANA does not designate content areas for program providers other than AANA.

- F. **Pharmacology & Therapeutics Content.** The CE Provider submitting programs containing pharmacology and therapeutics content may request pharmacology designated credit when applying for AANA prior approval. Along with the core content requirements as mentioned in the Content section, pharmacology content will provide a means to integrate advanced knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics content across the lifespan and prepare the certified registered nurse anesthetist to initiate appropriate pharmacotherapeutics safely and effectively.

Examples of pharmacology content eligible for credit include the following:

- drug specific information
- safe prescribing practices
- safe medication administration
- prescribing methodologies
- new regulations

Learner objectives provided for pharmacology content must explicitly identify how the content will meet the learning objectives. An example of a pharmacology learner objective is, “Develop pharmacologic measures for administration to reverse neuromuscular blockade to industry standards and best practices.” Presenters of pharmacology content must have content expertise in pharmacology. When a program is prior approved with a pharmacology credit designation, the Certificate of Completion must include the following designation statement:

The American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology designates this program as meeting the criteria for up to XX CE credits in Pharmacology & Therapeutics.

- G. **Pain Management Content.** The CE Provider submitting programs containing Pain Management content (inclusive of but not limited to acute surgical pain management, non-surgical pain management, chronic pain management) may request Pain Management designated credit when applying for AANA prior approval. Along with the core content requirements as mentioned in the Content section, Pain Management content will provide a means to integrate advanced knowledge of assessment, diagnosis, treatment and procedural safety involved in Pain Management therapies/procedures to prepare the certified registered nurse anesthesiologist to initiate appropriate Pain Management therapies safely and effectively throughout the lifespan. This content area should be developed to maintain and improve the knowledge, competency, and performance in the science and practice of the CRNA who provides care to patients with acute/surgical pain and/or chronic/nonsurgical pain.

Examples of pain management content eligible for credit include the following:

- Clinical Practice Guidelines related to pain management
- Current research findings related to pain management, pharmacology, anatomy and physiology
- Latest technologies and techniques related to pain management
- Concepts related to regional anesthesia and/or pain management therapies in the clinical setting
- Legal, ethical, and professional issues related to surgical and/or non-surgical pain management
- Psychosocial, spiritual, and cultural aspects of pain management
- Non-allopathic considerations for pain management
- Assessment and evaluation of the patient with acute surgical pain and/or chronic pain
- Foundations of initiating an acute pain service

- Business fundamentals in acute and/or chronic pain management

Acceptable activities/support materials include the following:

- Presentations (in person or virtual)
- Research abstracts/posters
- Journal access
- Consensus guidelines
- Video tutorials
- Simulation/Cadaver Labs

Learner objectives provided for pain management content must explicitly identify how the content will meet the learning objectives. Course/Activity objectives should use a general format, clearly stating the intended, measurable outcomes. The following are examples of a pain management learner objectives:

Describe and develop clinical practice measures for use of regional anesthesia in orthopedic surgery to industry standards and best practices.

In the simulated setting, demonstrate competence in the performance of advanced techniques of regional anesthesia.

Describe the psychosocial and cultural aspects of pain management among different groups of patients within the geographical area of Southwestern United States.

Create the basic elements of a business plan for establishing an acute and/or chronic pain service.

Presenters of pain management content must have content expertise in the specified aspect of pain management topic designated for the continuing education. Examples of content expertise include, but are not limited to, recent experience lecturing on the topic area, completion of a fellowship in acute/chronic pain management, active sub-specialty certification in Non-Surgical Pain Management (NSPM) from the NBCRNA, etc.

When a program is prior approved with a Pain Management credit designation, the Certificate of Completion must include the following designation statement:

The American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology designates this program as meeting the criteria for up to XX CE credits in Pain Management.

Disclaimer: There are education programs that were prior approved for continuing education credit (CE) that do not have explicit Pain Management credit designated by AANA, as the programs were either approved before AANA began designating Pain Management credit or the program provider opted to not apply for Pain Management credit. If the CRNA is required to submit Pain Management CE for authority to perform pain management therapies/procedures and the program does not appear in the Pain Management CE field on their AANA CE transcript, the CRNA should verify with their Board of Nursing or regulatory body, it will accept Pain Management content approved for CE from the program description to meet the requirements for renewal of authority to perform Pain Management therapies/procedures.

## **Random Audits**

The AANA CE Department will conduct random and targeted audits to determine compliance with AANA prior approval requirements and provider responsibilities. A program provider audited by the AANA must provide any or all of the documentation stated in Standard XI: Recordkeeping of the AANA CE Program as requested within 30 days of the request. Failure to meet the deadline may result in revocation of approval and no refunds will be made. The AANA reserves the right to deny, revoke or suspend approval based on non-compliance or non-responsiveness of the provider.

## **Application Processing**

Applications for prior approval are reviewed thoroughly before approval is awarded. Providers will be notified within 30 business days if the application is not complete and given an opportunity to revise and resubmit their application in the CE Portal for further review. Prior approval will not be awarded until the application is complete. Providers can check the status of the application in the CE Portal.

## **Prior Approval Notification**

The notification that an Inservice program has been awarded prior approval contains the assigned AANA code number, the number of Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits awarded, the date of AANA approval, expiration date, the provider's recordkeeping and participation recording responsibilities, and all other information pertinent to the approval.

Prior approval is granted only for the date(s) of the presentation the provider indicated on the application. The CE activity may not be presented at any other time unless the CE Department is notified, and approval is granted before the start of the presentation. CE programs cannot be offered under the provider's code number once it has expired. Prior approval will not exceed one year.

The code number is assigned a specific date range with a maximum number of credits and can be used only for the date(s) and CE credits shown on the approval notice. It must appear on all correspondence, promotional materials, and certificates of completion.

## **Changes in Prior-Approved Programs**

Minor changes in content can be undertaken without additional committee review, provided they involve improvement and comply with the standards for approval.

The number of CE credits originally prior approved cannot be changed unless the provider receives prior approval from the Continuing Education Department. A portion of a program, rather than the entire program, may not be presented unless prior approval is awarded.

## **Renewal of Inservice Programs**

To renew an inservice program without interruption, it is the provider's responsibility to submit a prior approval application approximately 3 months before the inservice expiration date. Turnover of staff or the appointment of a new inservice coordinator does not relieve the provider of the responsibility to reapply for approval before the program expires. CE inservice programs cannot be offered under the provider's code number once it has expired.

## **Prior Approval Announcement**

The AANA CE Program **does not award** CE units (CEUs), continuing medical education credits (CMEs), or continuing education points (CEPs). These designations are **not** interchangeable with the terms CE credit or contact hour and are not permitted for use on the certificates of completion or on any other program materials.

The announcement of AANA prior approval that appears on the certificate of completion and all other materials must contain the following information:

This program has been prior approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology for XX Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits; Code Number XXXXXXXX; Expiration Date XX/XX/XX.

The use of any statement such as “AANA approval pending” or “approval applied for,” is not permitted on any materials or promotional literature; it is misleading and can be considered false advertising.

If the program approval includes a pharmacology credit designation, include the following statement below the AANA prior approval statement:

AANA designates this program as meeting the criteria for up to XX Class A CE credits/MAC Ed credits in Pharmacology/Therapeutics.

## **Provider Recordkeeping Responsibilities**

The provider is responsible for recording CE credits via upload of an Excel or CSV file or manual entry and issuing certificates of completion to all attendees. Nurse anesthetists attend AANA prior-approved programs with the expectation that their CE credits will be recorded in a timely, accurate manner so that their CPC/MAC is not delayed. The guidelines for recording participation and issuing certificates of completion are sent to the provider with their approval notice and are available on [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com).

## **Notice of Denial of Approval**

The CE Department will notify the applicant in writing if the Inservice program or any part of the program is denied. The notice will briefly state the reasons for the denial and will advise the applicant of the right to seek reconsideration by the CE Committee.

## **Reconsideration**

An applicant may request reconsideration of a CE Committee decision by submitting a written request within 30 days after the date on the denial notice sent to the applicant. The applicant must provide the CE Committee with the reasons that he or she believes that the denial of approval was inappropriate and a description of modifications made to the program to correct any cited deficiencies. The applicant may appear before the CE Committee or may submit written materials to the CE Committee to address the identified problem areas.

The CE Committee will notify the applicant of its decision regarding reconsideration of the denial of the applicant’s CE program. If the CE Committee affirms the denial of the applicant’s CE program, the notice will briefly state the reasons for affirming the denial and will advise the applicant of the right to appeal the decision to the Continuing Education Appeals Panel (the “CEAP”). The applicant may appeal an Adverse Determination only after (a) the applicant has filed a timely request for reconsideration, and (b) the CE Committee has affirmed its initial decision to deny approval. The CEAP does not award CE credit.



### **Failure to Comply with Provider Responsibilities**

If a CE provider fails to comply with the AANA's *Continuing Education Program* standards, or fails to meet any of the recordkeeping responsibilities, the CE Committee may withdraw its approval of the CE activity.

The provider will receive 30 days written notice of the specific charges and the reasons for withdrawal and will have a reasonable opportunity to respond and be heard by the committee. If the CE Committee withdraws its approval, the provider may formally appeal the action to the AANA's Continuing Education Appeals Panel within a 30-day period.