



Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Exemption Due



The Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Exemption allows rural hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) — or hospitals and CAHs reclassified to a rural area — to qualify for reasonable cost reimbursement of anesthesia services performed by a qualified non-physician anesthetist.

What is the CRNA Exemption?

CRNA services are exempt from being billed to Medicare Part B on the CMS 1500 form. Instead, services are included on the Medicare Part A billing form UB-04 CMS-1450.

Non-physician anesthetists are defined as CRNAs and anesthesiologist assistants (AAs). This is an annual election and is made on a calendar year basis. You can find the manual reference for election of cost reimbursement for CRNAs at [CFR 42 Section 412.113\(c\)](#).

How do I receive the CRNA Exemption?

All hospitals pursuing CRNA cost reimbursement for anesthesia services for any calendar year must submit a written request to their Medicare Administrative Contractor **before January 1** of the applicable calendar year.

The written request must include:

- Written, signed, and dated agreements with the CRNA/AAs under contract or employment for services to be rendered during the calendar year.
- Data for its entire patient population demonstrating its volume of surgical procedures (inpatient and outpatient) requiring anesthesia services for the prior year did not exceed 800 procedures.
- Written agreement by each qualified non-physician anesthetist employed or under contract with the hospital not to bill on a reasonable charges basis for their patient care to Medicare beneficiaries in that hospital.
- Current CRNA/AA license(s).

Required documentation and due dates differ among the MACs. We suggest each hospital confirm with their MAC the necessary documents (contracts, written agreements, attestations) and due dates that must be submitted/met in order to qualify for the CRNA cost reimbursement option.

Regardless of the individual MAC requirements, all requests must be made prior to January 1.

Questions?

Let's Talk