

Preanesthesia Questionnaire

The preanesthesia questionnaire is used to help prepare you for the anesthesia process and determine the best anesthetic technique for you. You will be specifically asked about your medical history, current medications, prior operations, and allergies. Additional questions may include:

Yes No

- Have you recently had a cold or the flu?
- Are you allergic to latex (rubber) products?
- Have you experienced chest pain?
- Do you have a heart condition?
- Do you have hypertension (high blood pressure)?
- Do you experience shortness of breath?
- Do you have asthma, bronchitis, or any other breathing problem?
- Do you (or did you) smoke?
_____Packs/day _____Number of years
_____Date you quit
- Do you consume alcohol? _____Drinks/week
- Do you take or have you taken recreational drugs?
- Have you taken cortisone (steroids) in the last six months?
- Do you take any nonsteroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs?
- Do you have diabetes?
- Have you had hepatitis, liver disease, or jaundice?
- Do you have a thyroid condition?
- Do you have or have you had kidney disease?
- Do you have ulcers or other stomach disorders?
- Do you have a hiatal hernia?
- Do you have back or neck pain?
- Do you have numbness, weakness, or paralysis of your extremities?
- Do you have any muscle or nerve disease?
- Do you or any of your family have sickle cell trait?
- Have you or any blood relatives had difficulties with anesthesia?
- Do you have bleeding problems?
- Do you have loose, chipped, or false teeth?
Bridgework? Oral piercings?
- Do you wear contact lenses?
- Have you ever received a blood transfusion?
- (Men) Do you take Viagra?
- (Women) Are you pregnant? _____ Due date

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

A Tradition of Quality Care

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are anesthesia specialists who administer more than 32 million anesthetics to patients in the United States each year. The nurse anesthesia specialty has a history of nearly 150 years.

CRNAs represent a commitment to high standards in a demanding field. The educational requirements to become a CRNA are extensive. Prior to applying for admission to a graduate program in nurse anesthesia, a candidate must have a four-year bachelor of science degree in nursing or other appropriate baccalaureate degree, a current license as a registered nurse, and a minimum of one year of acute care nursing experience. The master's degree nurse anesthesia program itself is 24-36 months, depending on university requirements. CRNAs are board certified, and mandatory continuing education is required for recertification every two years.

Nurse anesthetists provide high-quality anesthesia services combined with personal concern for the health and welfare of patients. They are happy to assist you and offer information about what to expect with your anesthesia.



American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

222 S. Prospect Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068-4001
(847) 692-7050

www.aana.com



**Certified
Registered
Nurse Anesthetists**
Answer Your Questions

Anesthesia: Freedom from Pain

Each year, millions of people in the United States undergo some form of medical treatment requiring anesthesia. In the hands of qualified anesthesia professionals such as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), anesthesia is a safe and effective means of alleviating pain during nearly every type of medical procedure.

Anesthesia care is not confined to surgery alone. The process also refers to activities that take place both before and after an anesthetic is given.

Communication Before and After Surgery

Communication and cooperation between you and your anesthesia professional are essential to the anesthesia process and its safety.

Before surgery, a preoperative interview with your anesthesia professional provides valuable information that helps determine your care. It is equally important to communicate with your anesthesia professional after your surgery. The medications



you receive can remain in your body for 24 hours or more after they have been administered, and you won't be "back to your old self" until the anesthetic has been totally eliminated. Of course, you should never hesitate to ask your anesthesia professional any questions you might have — before or after your anesthesia is administered. To help you understand the process better, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) has prepared this brochure to answer some of the most common questions patients have about anesthesia.

Q&A

Is Anesthesia Safe?

Statistics show that anesthesia today is safer and more effective than ever before. New monitoring technologies, improved anesthetics, advanced education for anesthesia providers, and high professional standards have made the administration of anesthesia one of the safest aspects of a surgical or obstetrical procedure.

Who Administers Anesthesia?

Anesthesia is administered by CRNAs or anesthesiologists. In fact, CRNAs are the hands-on providers of more than 32 million anesthetics each year in the United States. CRNAs are advanced practice registered nurses with specialized graduate-level education in anesthesiology who administer anesthesia for all types of surgical cases, use all anesthetic techniques, and practice in every type of setting in which anesthesia is delivered. They work with surgeons, dentists, and podiatrists and may work in collaboration with anesthesiologists.



Will My Nurse Anesthetist Stay with Me Throughout My Surgery?

The nurse anesthetist stays with you for the entire procedure, constantly monitoring every important function of your body and individually modifying your anesthetic to ensure your maximum safety and comfort.

Are There Different Types of Anesthesia?

There are three basic types of anesthesia: General anesthesia produces a loss of sensation throughout the entire body; regional anesthesia produces a loss of sensation to a specific region of the body; and local anesthesia produces a loss of sensation to a small, specific area of the body.

What Determines Which Type is Best for Me?

The anesthesia chosen for you is based on factors such as your physical condition, the nature of the procedure, and your reactions to medications.

The preoperative interview with your anesthesia professional is key in the selection of the best anesthetic for you. In particular, you must speak freely and frankly and follow instructions closely regarding your intake of medications, food, or beverages before your surgery.

Do Different Types of Patients Require Different Types of Anesthesia?

Many factors go into determining the best anesthetic and administration technique for each person. Pregnant patients, children, older adults, and patients with hereditary disorders such as diabetes or sickle cell anemia all require special consideration. Even lifestyle choices such as tobacco and alcohol use can influence the anesthesia selection process.