

## **NDANA Interpretive Statement for Dry Needling by CRNAs in North Dakota**

Given the depth and breadth of their professional education and clinical expertise utilizing multiple treatment modalities for acute and chronic pain management, the North Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NDANA) believes that Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are well-positioned and equipped to safely perform dry needling in North Dakota.<sup>1</sup> The NDANA believes that with the appropriate education and practicum experience, performing dry needling is within the CRNA scope of practice.

If dry needling was not included in the individual's entry level-education, the individual would need to participate in approved and recognized continuing education activities. The continuing education content would need to provide the knowledge, skills, and competencies required for the CRNA to safely perform dry needling. Continuing education activities would need approval by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists or another recognized approval or accrediting organization.<sup>2</sup> The individual practitioner should maintain records that reflect the acquisition and maintenance of knowledge, skills, and competencies for regulatory and liability purposes.

### **References:**

<sup>1</sup> Buettner, K.C., & Schmalz, P.K. (2017). *Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and Dry Needling in North Dakota* [White paper].

<sup>2</sup> American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. (2017). Continuing education program for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. (16<sup>th</sup> ed.). Retrieved from <http://www.aana.com/ceandeducation/continuingeducation/Documents/2017CEBookletFinal.pdf>

NDCC 43-12.1. Nurse Practices Act

NDAC Title 5. CHAPTER 54-05-03.1 Standards of Practice for the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse