



Kansas City

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Payment Policy POL-PP-104	
Subject: Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (APRN) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA)	
Effective Date: 7/1/2019	Committee Approval Obtained: 7/1/2019 Last Review: 7/1/2022 Next Review: 7/1/2023
The most current version of our reimbursement policies can be found on our provider website. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to https://providers.bluekc.com/ContactUs/PaymentPolicies	
<p>Provider Payment policies are written to provide an overview of coding and payment guidelines as they pertain to claims submitted to Blue KC. These guidelines are not intended to provide billing or coding advice but to serve as a reference for facilities and providers.</p> <p>Covered services and payment are based on the member's benefit plan and provider agreement. Providers and their office staff may use our online tools to verify effective dates and member copayments before providing services. Visit our providers page for information on member eligibility and benefits. Member liability may include, but is not limited to copayments, deductibles, and co-insurance. Members' costs depend on member benefits.</p> <p>Certain services require prior authorization or referral.</p> <p>Blue KC reimburses health care providers based on your contracted rates and member benefits. Claims are subject to payment edits, which Blue KC updates regularly.</p>	
Policy	<p>This policy addresses Blue KC coding and coverage for APN, ARNP and CRNA. Both Missouri and Kansas statutes provide for collaborative practice arrangements between physicians and nurses.</p> <p>Under such agreements the nurse may administer, dispense, or prescribe drugs and provide treatment to patients if the nurse is acting within the nursing scope of practice. The nurse must meet certain educational or accreditation requirements (credentialing) and have a written collaborative practice arrangement with a licensed physician.</p> <p>APN – Advanced Practice Nurse. ARNP – Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner. CRNA – Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.</p> <p>Advance Practice Nurses (APN) and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP) Services that are otherwise covered under a member's benefit plan will be treated as covered services when provided by an advanced practice registered nurse when the following requirements are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The nurse must meet the educational and/or accreditation requirements of state statute or regulation. ▪ The nurse must have entered into a written agreement, protocol or standing orders with a licensed physician delineating the scope and authority of the nurse in a collaborative practice arrangement. All services performed by the APN/ARNP within this scope and authority should be submitted by the APN/ARNP.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The nurse must provide services within the scale of practice of professional nursing. <p>Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) Claims from independently practicing CRNA's (not part of a physician group) may be approved for payment if the CRNA has a current participation contract with Blue KC. Payment for services will be directed to the independently practicing CRNA (or CRNA group). If the CRNA has been credentialed, network agreements may also be offered, and benefit payment should be based on specific product / network status.</p> <p>Nurses as Surgical Assistants Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) is a perioperative registered nurse (RN) or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who functions in an expanded role as a surgical first assistant.</p> <p>CRNFAs are certified by the Association of Peri-Operative Registered Nurses (AORN) after completing certain educational levels, gaining surgical experience, and passing a national exam. AORN does consider the nurse to be an APN/ARNP and refers to them as such on its website. Unless Missouri or Kansas changes to consider CRNFA's as APN's/ARNP's, they will remain ineligible for reimbursement by Blue KC as first surgical assistants.</p> <p>Certified Nurse, Operating Room (CNOR) is the designation recognizing the nurse who has been certified in perioperative nursing. This certification does not indicate the nurse is an APN/ARNP, therefore a CNOR is not eligible for reimbursement by Blue KC as first surgical assistants. Unless Missouri or Kansas changes to consider CNOR's as APN's/ARNP's, they will remain ineligible for reimbursement by Blue KC as first surgical assistants.</p> <p>APRN and APN Scope of Practice Decision Making Model</p> <p>Missouri Decision Making Model</p> <p>Kansas Decision Making Model</p>
History	Approval Date 7/1/2019 Effective Date 7/1/2019
Review	Annual Review 7/1/2021 – No Changes Annual Review 7/1/2022 – Per Payment Policy POL-PP-219 Advanced Practice Provider Billing, removed "For CRNA's who are employed by a DO or MD, claims typically will be submitted under the name and NPI number of the employing physician." added Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) is a perioperative registered nurse (RN) or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who functions in an expanded role as a surgical first assistant.
References and Research Materials	CMS Missouri Board of Nursing Kansas Board of Nursing
Related Policies	N/A

This document is for informational purposes only and is not an authorization, an explanation of benefits, or a contract. Receipt of benefits is subject to satisfaction of all

terms and conditions of the coverage. Medical Technology is constantly changing, and Blue KC reserves the right to review and update policies as needed.
