

ABSTRACT

This mixed-design, descriptive study was conducted to identify safety concerns specific to caring for the anesthetized surgical patient. Specifically, these safety concerns were identified by certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) at one practice setting in a northwestern Pennsylvania city. A 12-item survey designed specifically for this study was distributed to the 25 CRNAs employed full- or part-time at the study setting. Prior to data collection, permission to conduct this study was obtained from the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the medical center's IRB and Nursing Research Approval Committee. Participation was strictly voluntary. Data were collected using a survey technique. Returning a completed survey implied consent. Therefore, signed consent was not required. No names were collected, ensuring participant confidentiality. Findings are reported in the aggregate, further ensuring participant confidentiality. There were no risks to participating in this study. There were also no benefits to participating, other than knowing that they were adding to nursing's body of knowledge. While direct quotes are used in the report of findings, this was done merely to enhance discussion. There is *no* way to attribute any specific quote to any individual CRNA who participated. Responses to demographic data items and closed-ended study items were analyzed using descriptive statistics and findings are reported in the aggregate. Responses to open-ended study items were analyzed using thematic analysis and findings are reported in the narrative. Following data analysis, a copy of the study was placed in the anesthesia work room.