

ABSTRACT

This mixed-design study was conducted to identify perceptions among certified nurse anesthetists of anesthesia information management systems. Automated anesthesia record-keeping has been used since the 1970's. Yet, as of 1998, fewer than 6% of anesthesia providers were utilizing anesthesia information management systems. Patient advocacy groups and government agencies continue to advocate the use of information technology to promote patient safety. Data were collected using a 31-item survey instrument developed specifically for this study. The survey instrument was distributed at a continuing education seminar for CRNAs. A cover letter explaining the purpose of the research study was attached to the survey instrument. Participation was voluntary. Completion and submission of the instrument by the nurse anesthetists surveyed indicated their consent to participate. Demographic data, used to describe the sample, and study data are reported in the aggregate, maintaining participant confidentiality. Of the 50 surveys distributed, 37 were returned, yielding a 74% response rate. Demographic data and responses to 15 closed-ended survey questions were analyzed using descriptive statistics and findings were reported in the aggregate. Responses to 2 open-ended questions were analyzed using thematic analysis. Results indicated that CRNAs perceptions of AIMS included positives for patient care with increased direct patient focus and improved record keeping. Potential negatives identified included increased legal vulnerability as well as rigidity and inaccuracy of computer format. Results further indicated that 31 (83.8%) of the CRNAs surveyed had no prior experience with an AIMS.