



PHYSICIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS ARE MADE FOR CRITICAL MOMENTS IN PATIENT CARE

Physician anesthesiologists are guardians of patient safety, uniquely educated and trained for the critical moments in health care — in the operating room, in the delivery room, in the intensive care unit, and in a crisis. No other type of practitioner can match their ability to navigate life-and-death moments in patient care. Physician anesthesiologists are made for these moments.

As medical doctors, physician anesthesiologists specialize in anesthesia care, pain management, and critical care medicine, bringing the knowledge required to treat the entire body. Their education and training includes 12 to 14 years of education, including medical school, and 12,000 to 16,000 hours of clinical training to specialize in anesthesia care and pain control. Removing physician supervision from anesthesia in surgery lowers the standard of care and jeopardizes patients' lives.

Say "Yes" to High-Quality Patient Care

Removing physician supervision from anesthesia care in surgery jeopardizes patient safety. A physician anesthesiologist's education and training can mean the difference between life and death when a medical complication occurs.

In fact, physician anesthesiologists often prevent complications by using their diagnostic skills to evaluate a patient's overall health, and identify and respond to underlying medical conditions. They evaluate, monitor, and supervise patient care before, during, and after surgery, delivering anesthesia, leading the Anesthesia Care Team, and ensuring optimal patient safety.

A Few Facts

- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) decided to maintain its patient-centered, physician-led model of anesthesia care where physicians and nurse anesthetists work together as a team.
- Allowing nurses to administer anesthesia without physician supervision does not save patients or taxpayers money. Medicare, Medicaid, and most third-party insurers pay the same fees for anesthesia whether it is administered by a nurse anesthetist or physician anesthesiologist.

Physician Anesthesiologists Have Superior Education and Training - Some Things Just Don't Compare



Education, Training, and Experience Can Mean the Difference Between Life and Death

You wouldn't board a plane without a qualified pilot, and you shouldn't receive anesthesia during surgery without physician supervision. Physician anesthesiologists developed the techniques and protocols that have greatly improved the safety of anesthesia, and no one knows as much about delivering the highest-quality medical care and ensuring patients' safety under anesthesia as these highly trained physicians.

Some nurses are now pursuing doctorate degrees or Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees (DNPs). The DNP is not equivalent to a Doctor of Medicine degree or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree and the DNP "will not alter the current scope of practice for APRNs (advanced practice registered nurses)," according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. No state boards of nursing have mandated the DNP as a requirement for nurse anesthetists. The DNP will be required for entry-level nurse anesthetist programs by 2025.

Quality Care Matters Most of All

An independent outcomes study published in the peer-reviewed *Anesthesiology*® journal found that the presence of a physician anesthesiologist prevented 6.9 excess deaths per 1,000 cases in which an anesthesia or surgical complication occurred.

Take Action—Protect Patients

Advocate for patient-centered, physician-led anesthesia care to ensure the highest-quality and safest medical care. Patients deserve no less. Who do you want providing medical care for you, your family, or a loved one in the moments that matter most?