



AAAA STATEMENT ON SUPERVISION OF CERTIFIED ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS

Compassionate, safe, and quality care is a basic right for all patients. The American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) believes all patients deserve their perioperative care to be led by a physician anesthesiologist and oppose any action that would transfer the supervisory responsibilities of these physicians to any other non-physician providers. Any effort to replace a physician within the anesthesia care team is disingenuous and unethical. There is no place in healthcare for one advanced practice provider supervising another advanced practice provider.

Not Authorized by Billing Code – Prohibited by Statute

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- Medicare specifically states that CAAs must be supervised by an anesthesiologist.
 - [§ 482.52 Condition of participation: Anesthesia services](#)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and all private payers only reimburse physician anesthesiologists for the supervision of non-physician anesthesia providers
- Supervision of a certified anesthesiologist assistant by a non-physician provider is non-reimbursable care

Florida Board of Nursing

- Ruled on the ability and legality of certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) supervising
- Ruling reads CRNA “does not have adequate educational preparation or nursing experience to supervise an AA trainee. Supervision of an AA, trainee or licensee, would be practicing beyond the scope of Petitioner’s license and in violation of 464.018(1)(h) and 456.072(1)(o).”

Take Home Point

- Zero precedent for certified registered nurse anesthetist supervision of any healthcare professional
- Violates all current legislation and practice standards for Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants

Not Qualified by Licensure, Education, or Experience

- Nurse anesthesia educational training programs lack didactic instruction and clinical experience related to supervising

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- No formal certification or accreditation body has granted authority to supervise licensed providers
- Current practicing non-physician providers have never held formal responsibility of supervision

Take Home Point

- Assigning supervisory roles without appropriate education or training poses a serious risk to patient safety, institutional integrity, and the well-being of all providers involved.

Advanced Practice Peers—Not Subordinates

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

- Both advanced practice providers with equivalent clinical training in anesthesia.
- Categorized as non-physician anesthetists by CMS
- Supervision of each other would violate principles of interprofessional equity
 - Equivalent comparison – Nurse practitioners supervising Physician assistants
- No precedent in healthcare

Expansion of Scope of Practice

Ethical practice of Anesthesiology dictates that the ultimate responsibility for the anesthesia care team's actions and patient's safety rests with a physician anesthesiologist. Transferring this responsibility from a physician to a nurse anesthetist would be a profound expansion of the scope of practice. Ultimate responsibility for care should derive from a physician trained in the practice of medicine and should never be transferred to an advanced practice provider trained in the practice of nursing.

Let it be clear:

The American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants will reject any legislation, regulation, or policy that allows or implies non-physician supervision of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants. This is a disingenuous political maneuver to misrepresent qualifications and education thereby deceiving patients. We consider this matter an ethical imperative and will never allow it to be permitted under any circumstance.

We call on legislators, policy makers, hospital systems, regulatory boards, and physicians to stop this effort unequivocally and without compromise.

Source:

[CMS State Operations Manual – Appendix A, §482.52\(a\)\(5\)](#)
[COA Standards for Accreditation, 2024](#)
[Statement on the Anesthesia Care Team](#)

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Statement Comparing Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Education and Practice (2022)

Federal Law 42 CFR 482.52 - Condition of participation: Anesthesia services

Federal Law 42 CFR 415.110 - Conditions for payment: Medically directed anesthesia services

Federal Law: § 410.69 Services of a certified registered nurse anesthetist or an anesthesiologist's assistant: Basic rule and definitions