



STATEMENT ON THE ANESTHESIA CARE TEAM MODEL (ACT)

The American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) supports the practice of the medical specialty of anesthesiology delivered in the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) model only when led by an anesthesiologist, a physician specialized in the field of anesthesiology. This model is consistent with the World Health Organization-World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia of 2018.

The ACT model is a team approach to anesthesia management in which an anesthesiologist concurrently supervises non-physician anesthetists and/or anesthesiology residents during the delivery of anesthesia care. While Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) are comprehensively trained and proficient in all areas of anesthesia care, delegation of the scope of patient care duties to a CAA is at the discretion of the supervising anesthesiologist and/or practice group, in accordance with established state regulations and local or facility credentialing and practice guidelines.

AAAA believes in a care team that is strong, cohesive, diverse, and whose members constantly strive to seek to improve patient care both individually and collectively. AAAA firmly stands by the principle that the most effective teams in any field have strong, qualified leadership, and that the only appropriate individual to lead the anesthesia care team is a physician anesthesiologist.

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) practicing within the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) may only be supervised by a physician anesthesiologist. Supervising anesthesiologist means a licensed physician with an active, unrestricted license to practice medicine in the specialty of anesthesiology and this person has successfully completed a medical residency in anesthesiology, approved by the Accreditation Committee on Graduate Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, or its equivalent physician organization or successor.