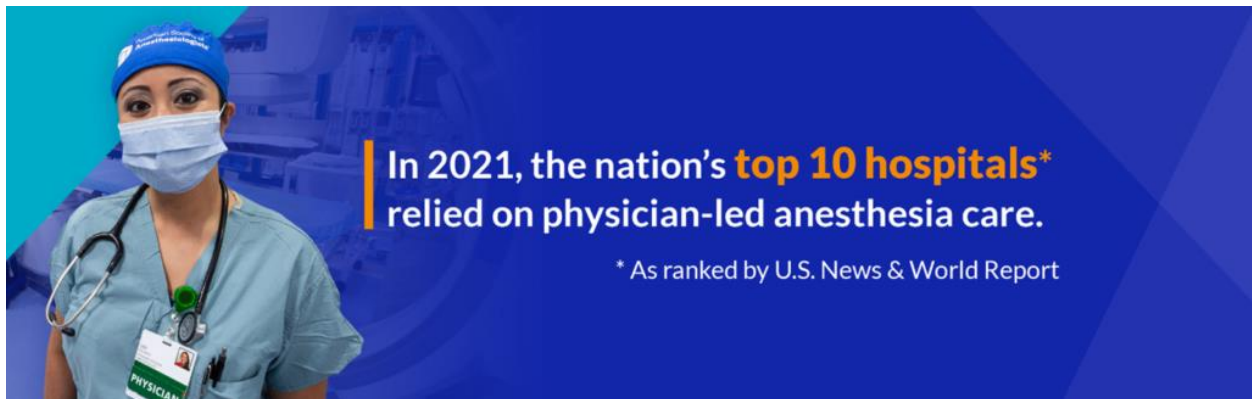


The Importance of Physician-Led Anesthesia Care

As medical doctors and leaders of the Anesthesia Care Team, anesthesiologists ensure the safest and best outcomes for all patients. That's why laws in most states and the policies of the nation's top hospitals require physician-led anesthesia care. Removing anesthesiologists from care raises risks for patients without expanding health care access or reducing costs. **Don't jeopardize your constituents. Preserve physician-led anesthesia care.**



Leading care with unmatched expertise

Anesthesiologists value all anesthesia providers and the teamwork that goes into providing patients with the highest-quality care. They evaluate, monitor, and supervise patients before, during, and after surgery and lead the Anesthesia Care Team to ensure optimal patient safety. Nurses and other nonphysician practitioners are trained primarily to administer anesthesia, not to make critical decisions during surgery. Anesthesiologists' extensive education and training have prepared them to make those crucial choices that can mean the difference between life and death.

Anesthesiologists

Must complete **medical school**.

Have **12 – 14 years** of higher education.

Complete **12,000 – 16,000 hours** of clinical training focused on anesthesia care, pain control, and responding to complications and emergencies in surgery.

Often spend a year or more in a fellowship program to learn an **anesthesiology subspecialty**, such as cardiac, pediatric, neurologic, obstetric, pain management, or critical care.

Nurse Anesthetists

Do not complete medical school.

Have **5 – 7 years** of higher education.

Complete **2,500 hours** of clinical training focused on anesthesia administration.

Do not participate in subspecialty fellowships.



Lowering risks, saving lives, and enhancing recovery
Anesthesiologists apply their expertise to:


- Identify and mitigate patient risks before surgery.
- Prevent complications and respond to emergencies in the operating room.
- Enhance their patients' postoperative recovery.

Nine in 10 patients want an anesthesiologist by their side to keep them safe in surgery.

Independent survey conducted by PSB for the American Society of Anesthesiologists

Get the Facts:

Many studies prove the benefits of anesthesiologist-led care.



The presence of an anesthesiologist in surgery **prevented 6.9 excess deaths per 1,000 cases** in which an anesthesia-related or surgical complication occurred.

Source: Independent study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Anesthesiology*[®], based on a review of nearly 200,000 surgeries.



The odds of hospitalization after outpatient surgery were **80% higher when anesthesia care was led by a nurse anesthetist** instead of an anesthesiologist.

Source: Independently funded analysis of more than 2.4 million outpatient surgeries, published in the *Journal of Clinical Anesthesia*.

Providing high-quality care and reducing costs

Anesthesiologists' services are reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid, and most third-party insurers at the same rate as services provided by nurse anesthetists. But anesthesiologists' involvement and leadership play a critical role in controlling health care costs before, during, and after surgery by:

- Reducing unnecessary testing, same-day cancellations, operating room emergencies, and surgical complications.
- Decreasing the need for additional consults from other specialty physicians for services that could have been provided by an anesthesiologist.
- Reducing the risk of costly hospitalization following outpatient surgery.

Surgical care costs were about 8.7%—or \$1,800—higher per inpatient surgery in states that allowed nurse-only anesthesia care to replace physician-led care.

Based on a 2017 study of states that allow nurse-only anesthesia care for Medicare patients.