



Physician anesthesiologists specialize in anesthesia care, pain and critical care medicine, and have the necessary knowledge to understand and treat the entire human body.

Physician anesthesiologists evaluate, monitor and supervise patient care before, during and after surgery, delivering anesthesia, leading the Anesthesia Care Team and ensuring optimal patient safety.



As leaders of the Anesthesia Care Team model, physician anesthesiologists deliver and provide important clinical oversight, including necessary life-saving interventions, to nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologist assistants.



States and the District of Columbia require physician oversight or involvement in anesthesia care delivery.

(ASA state analysis, 2019)



The World Health Organization states “anesthesia should be provided, led, or overseen by an anesthesiologist.”

(World Health Organization-World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WHO-WFSA) International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia, 2018)



Physician anesthesiologists have 12,000 – 16,000 hours of clinical training in anesthesia, pain and critical care medicine, including a medical or surgical rotation.



Physician anesthesiologists have **12 – 14 years of education**, earning a doctoral degree in medicine or osteopathy and completing an accredited 4-year residency program.



Independent studies found that anesthesia is safer when physician anesthesiologists personally deliver anesthesia or lead anesthesia teams.

(Silber 2000, Memtsoudis 2012)



In 2017, after a thorough 4-year study and review, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs affirmed the physician-led, team-based model of anesthesia care for Veterans.

(Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) Final Rule, 2017)



Physician anesthesiologists staff the nation's top ranked hospitals.

(Analysis of U.S. News and World Report's Top Hospitals, 2016)