

CAA Week celebrates quality anesthesia care

National CAA Week, June 3-9, recognizes the contributions of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) delivering high quality, patient-centered perioperative medical treatment. As advanced practice providers, anesthesiologist assistants are a critical part of the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) in surgical, acute care, labor and delivery, and ambulatory care settings.

“Effective, efficient team-based care is the gold standard of modern medical treatment,” AAAA President Nick Davies, CAA, said. “Certified anesthesiologist assistants, working with physician anesthesiologists, surgeons, nurses, and others, are critical members of the anesthesia and surgical care teams. We work together across the United States to provide high quality, compassionate, and safe anesthesia services to patients.”

Throughout CAA Week and wherever CAAs and Student Anesthesiologist Assistants (SAAs) work, these practitioners of the healing arts celebrate the opportunity to deliver quality health care. CAAs complement the work, training, and experience of physician anesthesiologists by freeing physicians to focus on patients with the highest level of need, most serious conditions, and those undergoing the most complicated surgical procedures.

CAAs work under the direction of licensed physician anesthesiologists to implement anesthesia care plans. CAAs work exclusively within the Anesthesia Care Team model. The CAA works collaboratively with the physician anesthesiologist to prescribe and administer therapeutic interventions in the perioperative and intensive care settings.

Like physicians, AAs are trained in the medical school model. The goal of AA education is to guide the transformation of qualified student applicants into competent health care practitioners who commit to work in the anesthesia care team model for the benefit of patients. Graduates of AA training programs earn Master’s degrees and complete a minimum of 2,000 hours of clinical anesthesia training. Many experience 2,500 hours of clinical interaction with other medical providers prior to graduation.

The certification process for AAs includes an initial certifying examination, demonstration of continuing medical education, and interval examinations for continued demonstration of qualifications. The CAA exam is created, updated, and administered by the National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants in collaboration with the National Board of Medical Examiners which oversees testing for physicians.

To learn more, visit www.anesthetist.org, email info@anesthetist.org, or call (678) 222-4233.

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