

# Anesthesiologist Assistants:

*Mid level providers trained by anesthesiologists for anesthesiologists.*

AAs can be an integral part of your anesthesia practice. AAs are masters level non-physician anesthetists with a premed undergraduate background. All AA programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and have a board certified anesthesiologist as medical director. AAs recertify by written exam administered by the National Board of Medical Examiners every 6 years.



The code of Federal Regulations officially recognizes AAs as qualified anesthetists for both the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The acceptable supervision ratio to qualify for medical direction under CMS rules is 1:4. The 'QK' modifier is used (in conjunction with 'QX') when the anesthesiologist concurrently directs two, three, or four AAs or NAs or any combination of the two.

Major malpractice insurance carriers rate AAs identically to nurses practicing under medical direction.

## Building cohesive anesthesia care teams

AAs practice within the Anesthesia Care Team under the direction of an anesthesiologist. AAs do not work independently or under the supervision of any other specialty physician.



American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants  
1231 Collier Road NW, Suite J • Atlanta GA 30318  
PHONE: 678-222-4233 • [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org)  
[www.facebook.com/pages/American-Academy-of-Anesthesiologist-Assistants](https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Academy-of-Anesthesiologist-Assistants)

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