

Adopted July 25th, 2006



**STATEMENT ON REGIONAL ANESTHESIA & INVASIVE LINE PROCEDURES
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA)**

The American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) is dedicated to the goal of patient safety. Anesthesiologist Assistants (AA) practice exclusively within the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT), a team approach in which the supervising anesthesiologist delegates certain aspects of the implementation of an anesthetic to an anesthesiologist assistant.

The AAAA supports the prerogative of the anesthesiologist supervising the care of a given patient to delegate the technical aspects of regional anesthesia and invasive monitoring procedures to an anesthesiologist assistant (AA).

With regards to the specialty practice of anesthesia, the term ‘anesthesiologist’ shall be reserved for those allopathic or osteopathic physicians having completed an ACGME or COCA accredited residency program in anesthesiology.

The decision as to the most appropriate anesthetic technique and monitoring options for a particular patient is a medical judgment and must involve the expertise of an anesthesiologist. Anesthesiologist assistants can perform technical aspects of regional anesthesia and invasive line placements. When performed by an anesthesiologist assistant, a regional anesthesia or invasive line procedure must be carried out under the supervision, and with the express consent, of the attending anesthesiologist.

The AAAA further recognizes that scope of practice issues are ultimately decided by the appropriate licensing and credentialing bodies in a given region.