Anesthesiologist Assistants
Education and Practice
What is an Anesthesiologist Assistant?
A certified anesthesiologist assistant (AA-C) is a skilled person qualified by advanced academic and clinical education who has successfully completed a national certification exam to provide anesthetic care under the direction of a qualified anesthesiologist.
Current AA Practice

Practice Authorization

Licensure

Delegatory authority
Practice Authorization

• Delegatory Authority
  o Allows licensed physicians to delegate tasks to allied health care providers. This authority usually resides within the Medical Practice Act or other Health Care statutes.

• Licensure/Statutory Authority
  o State authorizes practitioners under statutes as defined by state legislative process and regulated by state medical board
Patterns of Practice

- AAs may only work under medical direction of an Anesthesiologist

- Supervising Ratios
  - CMS
    - Anesthesiologist may supervise up to 4 anesthetizing locations
  - State/Local Options may alter this ratio
“AAs and anesthesia nurses have identical patient care responsibilities and technical capabilities—a view in harmony with their equivalent treatment under the Medicare Program”
Pathway from Education to Practice

Master’s Degree Educational Program

National Certification

Licensure & Credentialing

Anesthesia Care Team Member
National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants
Initial Certification

• Graduate from CAAHEP accredited AA educational program

• National Certification Exam
  o National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA)
    • Administered & scored by NBME
Continued Certification

- Continued Demonstration of Qualification Exam
  - Required to maintain certification
    - Every 6 years

- Minimum of 40 CME hours every 2 years
Education
Program Design

• Affiliation with a medical school

• Administration
  o Medical Director
    • Board certified anesthesiologist
  o Program Director
    • AA-C
Accreditation & Length

• Programmatic accreditation awarded by Commission for the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

• Minimum 24 month duration and award a Master’s degree
AA program eligible applicants

- Bachelor’s Degree
- Pre-Med curriculum
- Entrance Examination: MCAT or GRE
- Healthcare/Shadowing experiences
- Background check/drug screen
- In person interview
Didactic Curriculum Content

- Anatomy
- Applied Physiology and Pathophysiology
- Patient Monitoring and Instrumentation
- Pharmacology
- Clinical Anesthesia
- Physics of Anesthesia
- Pre-Anesthetic Evaluation
Simulation

• All AA Programs utilize high-fidelity patient simulation
  
  o Task Training
  
  o Full scenario/case management
  
  o Debriefing
  
  o Assessment tool
Clinical Education

• Minimum of 2000 clinical contact hours

• Clinical rotations during all phases of education

• Specialty rotations
  
  - Pediatrics
  - Cardiothoracic
  - Trauma
  - Obstetrics
  - ICU
  - Outpatient
Emory University

- Atlanta, GA
Case Western Reserve University

- Cleveland, OH
- Houston, TX
- Washington DC
Nova Southeastern University

- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Tampa, FL
Quinnipiac University

- North Haven, CT
South University

• Savannah, GA
University of Missouri
Kansas City

- Kansas City, MO
University of Colorado Denver

- Aurora, CO
AAAAA 38th Annual Conference

April 12-15, 2014
The Westin on Hilton Head Island, SC