American Society of Anesthesiologists

1501 M Street, NW ▪ Suite 300 ▪ Washington, DC ▪ 20005 ▪ Phone: (202) 289-2222 ▪ Fax: (202) 371-0384 ▪ **mail@asawash.org** ▪ **www.asahq.org**

ANESTHESIA HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Physicians: Anesthesiologists (MD/DO)	**Non-Physicians:** Anesthesiologist Assistants (AA) and Nurse Anesthetists (NA)
Education Bachelor's degree (4 years) ▪ Pre-medical curriculum Medical School - (4 years) ▪ Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree Residency in Anesthesiology (4 years) Subspecialty Fellowship (1 year, optional) **Total since high school: 12 – 13 years** **Total postgraduate : 8 – 9 years**	**Education** Bachelor's degree (4 years) ▪ Pre-medical curriculum, AA ▪ Nursing curriculum, NA AA/NA Programs (approx. 2-3 years) ▪ Master's degree **Total since high school: 6 – 7 years** **Total postgraduate: 2 – 3 years**
Description of Practice Anesthesiologists are physicians who personally provide or medically direct 90% of all anesthetics in the United States. Anesthesiologists practice throughout the US in a variety of settings including: ▪ Hospitals; ▪ Ambulatory surgical centers; and ▪ Offices The medical specialty of Anesthesiology alone is singled out by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in its landmark study "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System" as the leader in quality and patient safety and for making anesthesia safer than ever.	**Description of Practice** AAs and NAs implement the anesthesia care plan under the medical direction of an anesthesiologist. In some states, NAs also practice under the supervision of an anesthesiologist or operating practitioner. While not recommended due to patient safety concerns, NAs may administer anesthesia without physician supervision in some facilities. AAs and NAs are recognized as qualified anesthesia providers by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, and TRICARE.

Anesthesiologists: Physicians providing the lifeline of modern medicine.
Founded in 1905, the American Society of Anesthesiologists is an educational, research and scientific association with 46,000 members organized to raise and maintain the standards of the medical practice of anesthesiology and improve the care of the patient.

For more information visit the American Society of Anesthesiologists website at **www.asahq.org**.