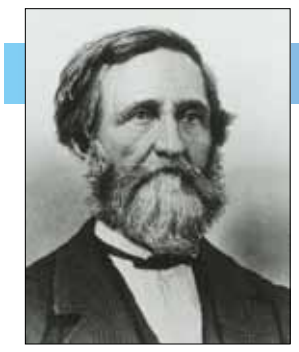
2013 PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

Timeline: Advances in Anesthesia Care

Over the past century, physicians have led research, science and technology advancements to make anesthesia safer than ever. These physicians have advanced a complex area of medicine to a level of safety that has never been possible before.

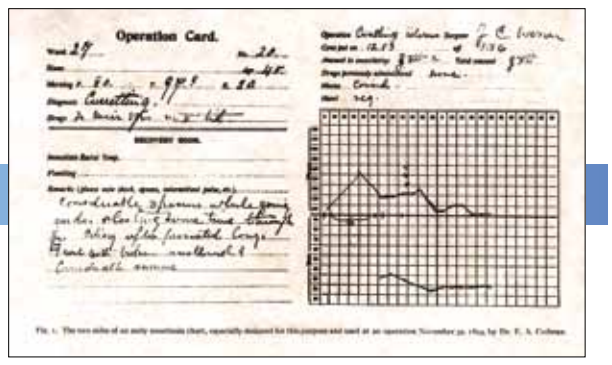


1842

Dr. Crawford W. Long administers the first ether anesthetic for surgery.

1894

Dr. E. A. Codman documents the first anesthesia record.

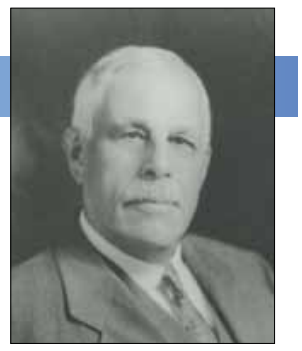


1901

Dr. Harvey Cushing introduces blood-pressure monitoring for surgical patients.

1903

Dr. S. Griffith Davis introduces the precordial stethoscope to monitor patients.



1905

Physicians organize to maintain the standards of anesthesiology and improve the care of patients; this organization evolves into today's American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA).

American Society of Anesthesiologists®

1914

Dr. James T. Gwathmey co-authors *Anesthesia*, the United States' first comprehensive anesthesia textbook.

1923

Dr. Ralph M. Waters develops the to-and-fro carbon dioxide absorption system to prevent patients from rebreathing their own CO_2.

1937

The American Board of Anesthesiology begins to examine and certify anesthesiologists.

1941

ASA develops a classification for patients' physical status before surgery.

1953

Dr. Virginia Apgar develops the now universal "Apgar Score" to assess newborns.

1960s

"Bullet" electrocardiograph (ECG) monitors are popularized for "explosion-proof" monitoring of surgical patients.

1980s

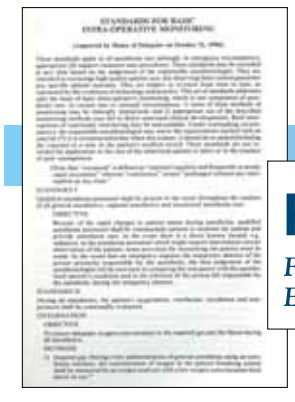
Important advances take place in electronic monitoring, including pulse oximetry and capnography.

apsf
ANESTHESIA PATIENT SAFETY FOUNDATION

1985

The Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) is launched to improve the safety of patients during anesthesia care.

The Closed Claims Project is established to show the correlation between anesthesia care and adverse events.



FAER
Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research

1986

ASA approves the first standard of care for anesthesia monitoring.

The Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) is founded to advance medicine through education and research.

1999

The Institute of Medicine's *To Err Is Human* singles out anesthesiology for its patient safety record.

2009

Anesthesia Quality Institute

The Anesthesia Quality Institute (AQI) is established to develop and maintain an ongoing registry of case data to help assess and improve patient care.

Research assistance provided by the Wood Library-Museum (WLM) of Anesthesiology.

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