



World Health Organization-World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WHO-WFSA) **International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia**

Normes internationales pour une pratique sécuritaire de l'anesthésie de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et de la Fédération mondiale des sociétés d'anesthésiologie (OMS-FMSA)

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Professional Status

Anesthesia is a vital component of basic healthcare and requires appropriate resources. Anesthesia is inherently complex and potentially very hazardous, and its safe provision requires a high level of expertise in medical diagnosis, pharmacology, physiology, and anatomy, as well as considerable practical skill. Therefore, the WFSA views anesthesiology as a medical practice. **Wherever and whenever possible, anesthesia should be provided, led, or overseen by an anesthesiologist (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).** When anesthesia is provided by non-anesthesiologists, these providers should be directed and supervised by anesthesiologists, in accordance with their level of training and skill. When there are no anesthesiologists at a local level, leadership should be provided by the most qualified individual. Policies and guidelines consistent with this document should be developed at a local, regional, or national level by a team of anesthesia providers led by an anesthesiologist.