

MEET THE ANESTHESIA CARE TEAM



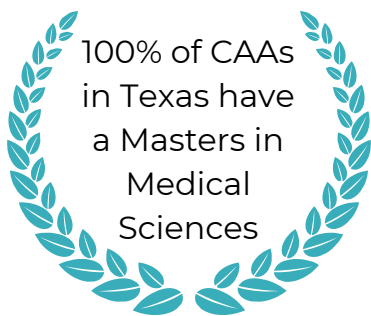
Anesthesiology is more than putting someone to sleep — it is the calculated use of dangerous, controlled substances used to put a patient's brain to sleep in order for an anesthesiologist to regulate brain, heart, lung and pain receptor functions during a medical procedure.

In Texas, physician anesthesiologists provide care either by personally administering the anesthetics and monitoring the patient's status or by leading an Anesthesia Care Team (ACT). The ACT is comprised of a Physician Anesthesiologist who directs and supervises anesthesia care by Certified Anesthesiology Assistants (CAA) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). While CAAs and CRNAs are qualified and valued members of the ACT, **there is no substitute for a physician.**

PHYSICIAN ANESTHESIOLOGIST Anesthesiologists are practicing physicians who specialize in anesthesia care, pain management and/or critical care medicine. This includes medically evaluating a patient prior to surgery, consulting with the surgical team, providing pain control and supporting vital life functions during surgery, supervising post-operative care and discharging a patient from the recovery unit. Physician anesthesiologists are the leaders of the ACT. Anesthesiologists undergo 12 to 14 years of medical education and complete 12,000 to 16,000 hours of clinical training specializing in anesthesia care and pain management.

CAA Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) are qualified anesthesia providers who work under the delegation and supervision of a physician anesthesiologist. **CAAs receive 6 years of medical education and 2,600+ hours of clinical training.**

CRNA Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are nationally certified anesthesia providers required to work under the delegation and supervision of a physician in Texas. **CRNAs receive 4 to 6 years of education and 2,000 hours of training in patient care.**



Anesthesiology is the practice of medicine.

Neither a CAA nor a CRNA can practice anesthesiology independently of a physician.

Education of Anesthesia Providers in Texas

