

August 5, 2021

TO: MSSNY's OFFICERS, COUNCILORS AND TRUSTEES
FROM: MSSNY AD HOC SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE
RE: RESOLUTION 112 – 2020 MSSNY HOD - Allow Anesthesiology Assistants to be Licensed in NYS

At the 2020 MSSNY House of Delegates, the following resolution was considered, and referred to Council. Resolution 112 original resolves read as follows:

RESOLVED, MSSNY advocate with the New York State Department of Education to license and regulate Certified Anesthesiology Assistants in the State of New York.

When the Resolution was considered by DGA (B) Reference Committee, they recommended to the full House of Delegates that the resolution be amended to have MSSNY "investigate the option" of urging the New York State Department of Education to create the profession of an anesthesiology assistant. At the full House of Delegates, the resolution was referred to Council, likely because it was believed that the Reference Committee's recommended alternative did not go far as the original resolution in calling for MSSNY's full support.

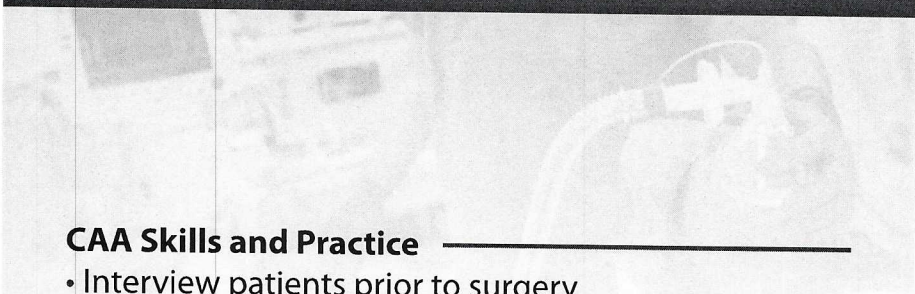
The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSSA) have supported creating licensure for certified anesthesiology assistants (CAAs). From its website, the ASA notes that CAAs are highly trained master's degree level non-physician anesthesia care providers. The CAA profession was established in the late 1960s by physician anesthesiologists. After studying the educational pathway for physician anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), physician anesthesiologists created a new educational paradigm for a mid-level anesthesia practitioner emphasizing a science/pre-medical – rather than nursing – background in college. The ASA website further notes that both CAAs and CRNAs have identical patient care responsibilities and technical capabilities – a view in harmony with their equivalent treatment under the Medicare Program. Certain differences do exist, however, between certified CAAs and CRNAs with regard to educational program prerequisites, instruction, and requirements for supervised clinical practice. For example, CRNA programs require a nursing degree and one year of critical care experience, while CAA programs require a bachelor's degree emphasizing pre-medical, science-based coursework. Additionally, certified anesthesiologist assistants must practice under the supervision of a physician anesthesiologist. The ASA further notes that this in no way is this a mark of inferiority but rather a realistic recognition that non-physician anesthetists must work within the relationship of a physician anesthesiologist to best ensure patient safety and optimal delivery of care. Moreover, the NYSSA has supported legislation to create supervised CAA practice in past legislative sessions (including A.7381 of the 2019-20 Legislative Session).

RECOMMENDATION: That the MSSNY Council adopt the following amended resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York advocate for legislation and with the New York State Department of Education to license and regulate Certified Anesthesiology Assistants in the State of New York.

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs)

are advanced anesthesia practitioners working within the Anesthesia Care Team model -- the **SAFEST** and most **COST-EFFECTIVE** approach to perioperative medical treatment.



CAA Skills and Practice

- Interview patients prior to surgery
- Place IVs, arterial lines, and catheters
- Provide comprehensive airway management
- Administer medications for all stages of anesthesia (pre-, peri-, and post-operative)
- Manage fluid and blood product transfusions
- Place regional anesthesia (spinal, epidural, caudal, and peripheral nerve blocks)
- Provide post-anesthetic care
- CAAs are fully licensed life support providers (BLS, ACLS, and PALS)

Credentials

- 24-28 months of graduate level education within the medical school model
- 2,000+ hours of clinical training in anesthesia
- Nationally board certified by an accredited organization
- Continuing medical education (CME) credits
- Recertification exams required every 6 years (more info at aa-nccaa.org)

Recognition and Practice Authority

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Tricare and the VA hospital system
- All major national and regional insurers
- Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF)
- American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- American College of Surgeons (ACS)

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs)

are utilized in ALL areas of anesthesia, such as:

- Cardiac
- Neurosurgery
- Trauma
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics
- Outpatient surgery
- Pain control

CAAs provide high quality patient care in anesthesia and peri-operative medicine, including the following:

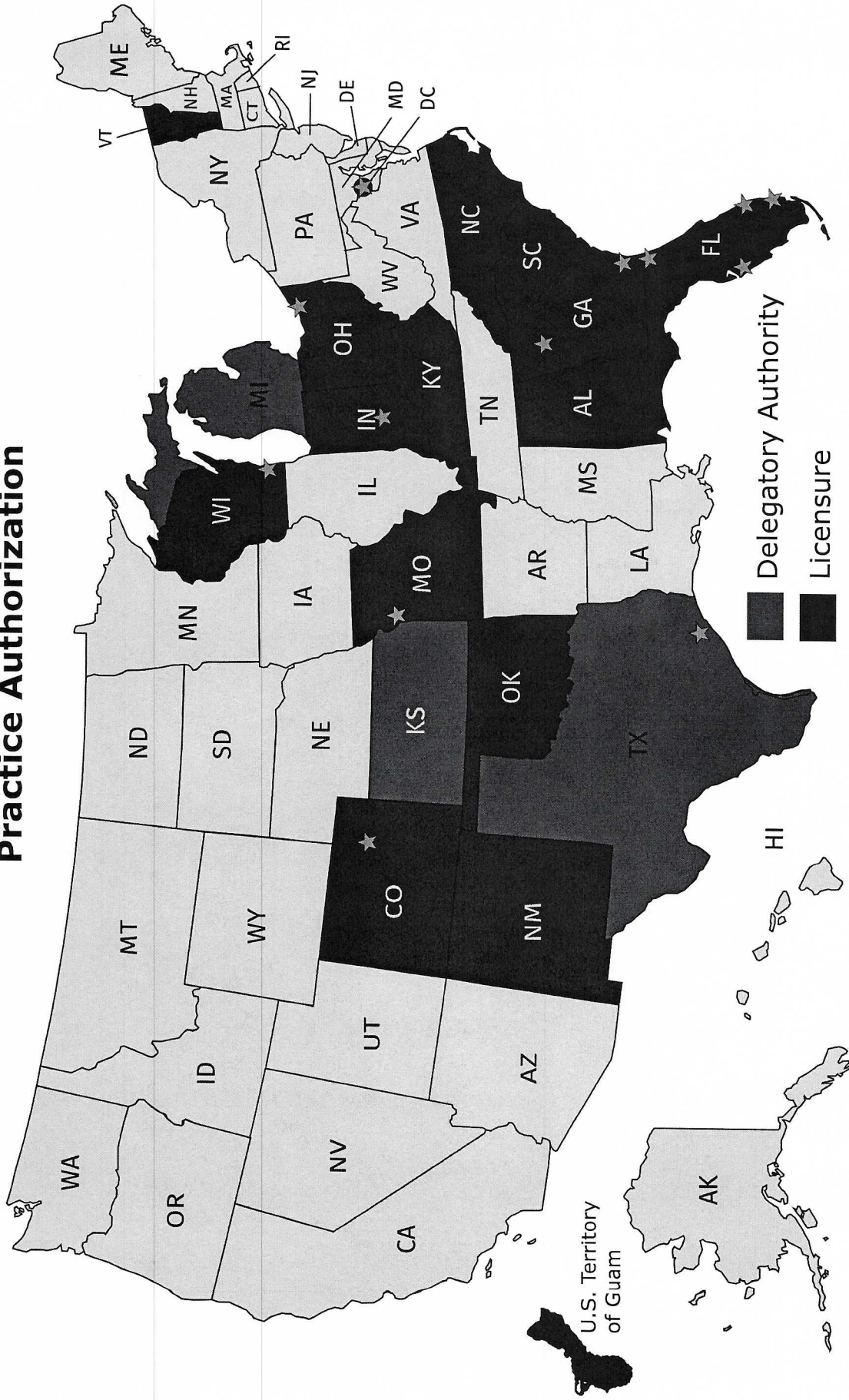
- IV sedation
(e.g., colonoscopies, eye procedures, MRI scans)
- Peripheral nerve blocks for surgeries on extremities
(e.g., shoulder surgery, total knee replacement)
- Spinals and epidurals
(e.g., Cesarean sections)
- Cardiac cases
(e.g., cardiac bypass surgery)
- Anesthesia for pediatric patients
(e.g., ear tube placement)
- General anesthesia for high acuity cases
(e.g., lung transplant, intestinal resections)
- Pain control management
(e.g., epidural dosing, pain rounds on inpatients)
- Trauma cases and resuscitative efforts
(e.g., gun shot wounds, car accidents)






AAAA

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants®

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants Practice Authorization



-  Delegatory Authority
-  Licensure
-  CAA Education Program

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants | anesthetist.org | info@anesthetist.org | 678.222.4233
 1818 Parmenter Street #300, Middleton, WI 53562

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