



Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs) – Quick Facts

- Eleven AA educational programs.
- No previous patient care experience required before an AA student starts an AA program.
- Receive a master's degree upon graduation.
- Approximately 3,000 AAs practicing.
- 13 states and the District of Columbia explicitly authorize AA practice in the U.S. The U.S. Territory of Guam also explicitly authorizes AA practice.
- In one state (Kentucky), AAs are prohibited from practicing unless they are also certified physician assistants.
- In 2 states (Michigan and Texas), AAs are not explicitly authorized under state law; however, AAs practice under purported physician delegation powers.
- AAs must work under the close supervision and direction of an anesthesiologist.
- AAs are paid on the same basis as CRNAs, except that AA services **must be billed as medically directed**, and AAs must be under **anesthesiologist** supervision.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) re-confirmed that AAs are prohibited from billing Medicare for non-medically directed services (billing code QZ).
- Because of AA's limited scope of practice, limited geographic scope, and inability to bill Medicare for non-medically directed services, AAs are a very limited, inflexible provider.

Advancing patient safety and the profession of nurse anesthesia.

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