

# Who Are

**Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs)** are highly educated and trained “Qualified Anesthesia Providers” who work under the physician-supervision of Anesthesiologists. **AAs** provide anesthesia to patients undergoing surgical and other major medical procedures. To be accredited, all **AAs** must:

- 1) Obtain a Bachelor’s Degree
- 2) Obtain a Master’s Degree from an accredited AA training program.
- 3) Complete an average of 2500 hours of clinical anesthesia training.
- 4) Pass a national certification exam and periodic recertification exams.

**Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs)** have practice safely at two Wisconsin hospitals for nearly 30 years: Gundersen Lutheran in LaCrosse and the University Hospital in Madison.

**AAs** work side-by-side with Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) at both hospitals, and perform all the same duties and functions.

Just like CRNAs, **AAs** are defined as “non-physician anesthetists” under Federal law, and AA services are reimbursed identically by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers.

Today, Wisconsin does not have enough “Qualified Anesthesia Providers” to fill the available positions at Wisconsin’s hospitals. (WHA’s Wisconsin Health Care Workforce Report 2008). As the baby-boom generation ages, the need for surgeries and other procedures requiring anesthesia is increasing and this shortage will worsen. Anesthesiologist Assistants can help alleviate this shortage.

# Anesthesiologist Assistants?