



## PHYSICIAN-LED ANESTHESIA IS THE GOLD STANDARD OF CARE AND SHOULD REMAIN THE ONLY CHOICE FOR FLORIDIANS.

### PHYSICIAN-LED ANESTHESIA SAVES LIVES.

All scientific studies to date have clearly shown that when anesthesiologists are involved in a surgical procedure patient outcomes are superior and complication rates are lower<sup>1</sup>. The top 20 American hospitals as rated by US News and World Report all have physician-led anesthesia departments<sup>2</sup>. Anesthesiologists provide or directly participate in more than 90 percent of the estimated 25 million anesthetic procedures performed annually in this country<sup>3</sup>. Why ignore all of the scientific research and weaken the safety net?

### ONLY ANESTHESIOLOGISTS HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO MAKE MEDICAL JUDGMENTS, CONDUCT A DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF A PATIENT'S CONDITION, AND INDEPENDENTLY PERFORM ALL OF THE MOST DEMANDING ELEMENTS OF THE ANESTHETIC PROCEDURE.

As the population ages, more complex medical conditions will require highly educated and skilled care. Anesthesiologists are physicians who have received a medical education that is twice as long as that of nurse anesthetists, equating to 10,000 to 14,000 hours of clinical training versus 1,000 to 2,500 hours for the CRNAs. Once the basic parameters of the anesthesia plan are prescribed by the anesthesiologist, nurse anesthetists are qualified to take various steps to implement it under physician oversight. Doctors and nurses have different training and expertise and serve the patient best when differences are recognized and a team approach is taken.

### VIRTUALLY ALL STATES REQUIRE PHYSICIAN-LED ANESTHESIA.

Why should Floridians settle for anything less than this gold standard? An overwhelming majority of voters, nearly 90%, believe doctor supervision of anesthesia should be a requirement<sup>4</sup>. Access to physician-led anesthesia is not a problem in Florida and any changes to this standard would dramatically lower the bar for patient care and safety.

### OVERALL MEDICAL COSTS ARE LOWER WITH AN ANESTHESIOLOGIST.

Physician-led anesthesia provides patients with optimal care in the most cost-effective manner. Medicare and a majority of commercial insurers pay anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists at the same rate and in fact simply reimburse for the anesthetic rather than for the services of a particular physician or mid-level provider. As opposed to virtually every other medical specialty, anesthesia is different in that opting out of physician-led care realizes no health care expense savings. By virtue of their advanced medical knowledge and training, anesthesiologists are capable of providing a broad range of consultative services, often eliminating the need for the participation of additional doctors.

## ANESTHESIOLOGISTS: PHYSICIANS SAFEGUARDING PATIENTS WHEN MINUTES MATTER MOST.

*The Florida Society of Anesthesiologists upholds the highest standards of anesthesia care and patient advocacy.*

[www.fsahq.org](http://www.fsahq.org)

1. The Scope of Practice of Nurse Anesthetists: American Society of Anesthesiologists — January 2004  
2. US News and World Report: July 2012  
3. The Scope of Practice of Nurse Anesthetists: American Society of Anesthesiologists — January 2004  
4. Oklahoma Association of Anesthesiologists: January 2012

