

Licensing Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) in New York



A Proven, Physician-Led Workforce Solution

There is a rising demand for safe anesthesia care to support increased surgical volume in New York. A growing and aging population, innovation in surgical techniques, and advances in pain management approaches all mean that there is a need for more anesthesia providers who are qualified to work in the operating room and also to provide pain management in non-operating room areas (NORA).

Addressing this need for a strong and adequate anesthesia workforce must be done in a way that maintains the highest standards of patient safety. Licensing Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) provides a proven, immediate pathway to expand the anesthesia workforce, within the physician-led care team model that protects patients.

Expands Access While Preserving Patient Safety

- CAAs practice exclusively under the **direction of physician anesthesiologists** as part of the Anesthesia Care Team
- CAAs fit within New York's physician-led, **team-based standard of care**
- CAAs add **workforce capacity without replacing or displacing** existing anesthesiologists or nurse anesthetists

A Proven Model Used Nationwide

- **24 states and multiple jurisdictions** already license or authorize CAAs
- CAAs are fully integrated in **academic and community hospital systems, and used within the VA system**
- States like Florida have added about **1,000+ anesthesia providers** after adopting CAA licensure law and a training program
- Licensure for CAAs offers a demonstrated approach to **grow New York's healthcare workforce quickly and safely**

What is a CAA?

A specialized anesthesia provider who works with, not independently from, physician anesthesiologists:

- Educated with a Master's-degree, pre-med track background
- Trained with 2,000–2,500 clinical hours + national certification
- Conducts patient assessment & monitoring
- Administers anesthesia medications
- Provides airway management and life-support intervention

Expands access. Maintains safety.





Strengthens Hospitals and Surgical Capacity

Licensing CAAs will:

- **Increase operating room capacity and efficiency**
- **Reduce surgical backlogs and wait times**
- Support expansion of **elective and urgent procedures**
- Reduce reliance on **costly temporary staffing**
- Improve financial stability for **safety-net, rural, and community hospitals**

Builds a Larger, Well-Trained Healthcare Workforce

- Expands and diversifies the **anesthesia workforce pipeline**
- Creates **high-skilled, high-paying healthcare jobs** in New York
- Supports development of **in-state education and training programs**
- Attracts **students, faculty, and healthcare investment**
- Helps retain talent currently leaving the state to practice elsewhere

Broad Support and Partnership Across New York

There is **strong, growing support** for licensing Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) as a practical, physician-led solution to meet New York's anesthesia workforce needs.

Key collaborators advancing this initiative include:

- Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) and hospital leadership statewide
- Leading academic institutions exploring development of CAA education programs
- Major health systems and hospital executives focused on expanding surgical capacity
- Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants currently licensed in other states who are ready to practice in New York

The Bottom Line

With CAAs practicing in state, New York can expand access to care without compromising safety.

Licensing Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants is a **common-sense, evidence-based solution** that strengthens the healthcare system while preserving the **physician-led model patients rely on**.

Support legislation to license Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in New York State.

CAAs: A Practical Workforce Solution That Protects Patients

- Expanding access to timely surgical care
- Strengthening the healthcare workforce
- Maintaining New York's high standards for patient safety through physician-led care

