

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

ANESTHESIA PROVIDERS

You have the right to know the credentials of the individuals who will be providing your anesthesia care. It is customary to meet the anesthetist who will be responsible to administer and monitor your care during the surgery. These may be your options:

- **Anesthesiologist**

These physicians are board certified and frequently hold additional certification in another specialty as well. These physicians often are in active practice at an area hospital and are thought to possess the highest level of skills. In the event of an emergency they are able to step into the capacity of administering advanced life support.

- **The Surgeon**

In some situations your surgeon may be the one administering your anesthesia while they perform your surgery and the function of monitoring of your vital signs will fall under the duties of a nurse.

- **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)**

A CRNA is a registered nurse who has completed an additional two years of training in anesthesia. A CRNA is able to administer general anesthesia because of this extensive training. The State Board of Nursing oversees their certification.

- **Certified Plastic Surgical Nurse (CPSN)**

These nurses are eligible to take a national certifying exam after they have worked full time for a minimum of two years. Administering your anesthesia would be as described under the following heading (Registered Nurse).

- **Registered Nurse**

The RN is allowed to administer intravenous drugs under the “directions of the surgeons.” They may also monitor your vital signs.