Physician Anesthesiologists Save Lives

- **20%** reduction in adverse events with physician-led anesthesia care
- **35%** higher anesthesia mortality rate when nurse anesthetists practiced alone vs. physician anesthesiologists practicing alone
- **50x** fewer deaths due to physician anesthesiologist efforts, from 1/5,000 deaths to 1/250,000 deaths

Physician Anesthesiologists = Highest Level of Training

- Nurse’s clinical training: median of **1,651 hours**
- Physicians Anesthesiologist’s training: **12,000 to 16,000 hours**

Patients Want a Physician by Their Side

- **70%** of people want **only a physician** to administer and monitor anesthesia levels before and after surgery
- **78%** want **only a physician** to perform pain medicine procedures like spinal injections
- **90%** said a physician’s medical training is vital to care, especially in the case of complications or emergencies

*Continued*
Physician anesthesiologists supervised of all surgeries in the other 17 states

Physician involvement can reduce costs by avoiding over-utilization of tests, over-prescribing medications, and excess referrals to specialists. Insurance companies pay the same fees for anesthesia whether it is administered by a nurse anesthetist or physician anesthesiologist. And you get more value from a physician anesthesiologist because physicians can diagnosis and treat medical complications, providing internal medicine and critical care medicine before, during and after surgery.

Physician Anesthesiologists Play a Critical Role Before, During and After Surgery

Pre-Op
Diagnose underlying medical conditions and their impact on surgery, determining whether the patient can safely undergo the procedure

Intra-Op
Provide appropriate anesthesia levels to maintain life functions during otherwise painful surgical procedures; medically diagnose, treat and optimize medical emergencies and surgical problems that arise

Post-Op
Provide continuity of physician-led medical care and pain management for a faster, less painful recovery

Sources:
- American Society of Anesthesiologists
- American Medical Association 2008 and 2010 survey results
- Journal - Health Affairs, 2010
- Anesthesiologist Direction and Patient Outcomes. Anesthesiology, 2000
- To Err is Human. Institute of Medicine, 1999.