



CLASA-WFSA Joint Statement on Provision of Safe Anesthesia Care

Note: This statement applies to the countries whose national anesthesiology societies are members of CLASA.

Anesthesiologists are specialist physicians and experts in the provision of anesthesia care and sedation, including operative and perioperative care, pain medicine, critical care and resuscitation.

CLASA is the **Confederación Latinoamericana de Sociedades de Anestesiología**. It represents 19 national anesthesiology societies in the Latin American region. CLASA is a regional section of WFSA.

WFSA is the **World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists**. It is a unique global membership organization representing 134 national anesthesiology societies and anesthesiologists in 145 countries worldwide. WFSA is in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and represents global anesthesia vis-à-vis the United Nations.

WHO and WFSA have jointly published International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia¹ and WFSA calls on WHO member states to implement these standards.

CLASA and WFSA jointly state that:

- Anesthesia is a medical specialty.
- WFSA supports the member societies of CLASA in their goal of *anesthesia only being delivered by physician anesthesiologists* in the countries associated with CLASA.
- To achieve optimal patient care, physician anesthesiologists must receive equivalent resourcing to other specialists, for example, surgeons and obstetricians.
- Decisions about anesthesia workforce development can *only* be made with the involvement and leadership of physician anesthesiologists.
- Within its region, anesthesia workforce models should be determined by CLASA in collaboration with national anesthesiology societies.
- Both CLASA and the WFSA are committed to strengthening the anesthesiologist workforce through targeted education and training.

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This statement was agreed by the CLASA and WFSA Boards on December 27, 2022.

¹ Gelb AW, Morriss WW, Johnson W, Merry AF. World Health Organization-World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia. *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. 2018;126(6):1-9.