Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistants

The Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistant (CCAA) designation from the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists indicates that an anesthesia assistant (AA) has been recognized for their additional education and clinical training in anesthesia assistance.

Certification incorporates an external and practice-focused evaluation based on national standards for AA practice. The CCAA designation is the only national benchmark for AA practice in Canada and serves as an independent and impartial assessment of ongoing competency.

Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistants are important members of the Anesthesia Care Team.
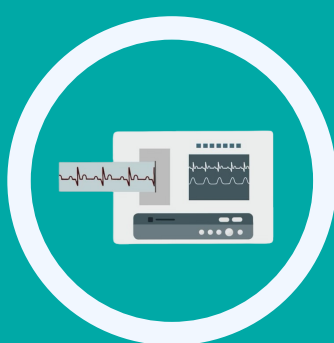
The Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists recommends that CCAAs be included on specialist-physician led anesthesia care teams and that these teams should be implemented across Canada to optimize the delivery of safe and efficient patient care.

CCAAs are evidence-based practitioners who work with patients of all ages and with specific anesthesia needs. As physician extenders on a specialized team, they enhance and expand anesthesia services within hospitals and out-of-hospital facilities.

Roles Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistants perform under the medical direction of an anesthesia specialist physician include:
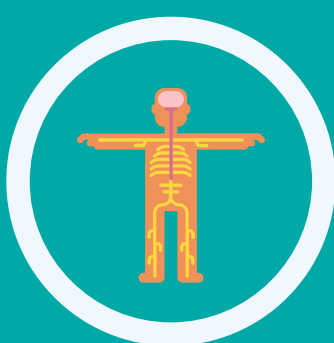

Preoperative assessment and care

Anesthesia focused patient monitoring

Airway management

Administration and titration of anesthesia agents

Assistance with regional and neuraxial anesthesia

Assistance with induction, maintenance and emergence

Hemodynamic management

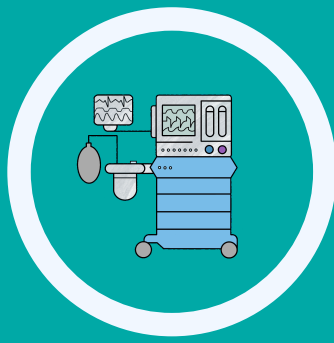Perioperative crisis management and resuscitation

Vascular access, fluid and blood replacement

Procedural sedation delivery and monitoring

Equipment quality assurance, maintenance and troubleshooting

Post-anesthesia care, teaching and discharge planning

For more information on Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistants and the important roles they play on anesthesia care teams, contact the CSRT.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES THÉRAPEUTES RESPIRATOIRES