

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 160 [2011 Senate Bill 383]

Licensure of Anesthesiology Assistants

Anesthesiology assistants (AAs) are medical professionals who may practice in Wisconsin through physician delegation, meaning an anesthesiologist may delegate specific anesthesia tasks to an AA. Prior to the enactment of 2011 Wisconsin Act 160, AAs were not licensed or certified under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

2011 Wisconsin Act 160 creates a licensure process for AAs. Under the Act, no person may be designated as or use the title "AA" unless the person is licensed as an AA by the Medical Examining Board (MEB). The Act retains the requirement for supervision of a licensed AA by an anesthesiologist in the delivery of anesthesia care, and details the requirements of a supervision agreement and the AA's scope of practice. The Act also requires that the AA be employed by a health care provider.

Act 160 creates a Council on Anesthesiologist Assistants in the Department of Safety and Professional Services, serving the MEB in an advisory capacity. The Council must guide, advise, and make recommendations to the MEB regarding the scope of AA practice, and promote the safe and competent practice of AAs in the delivery of health care services.

Effective date: Act 160 takes effect on October 1, 2012.

Prepared by: Laura Rose, Deputy Director April 11, 2012

LR:jb;jal

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: http://www.legis.state.wi.us/.