

This past week the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Board of Directors decided to no longer provide financial support to the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF). The AANA board objected to APSF's decision to publish a summary of the World Health Organization's (WHO) "[Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia](#)" in its February 2019 *APSF Newsletter*. This 2018 WHO standards policy, unanimously approved by the countries represented in the United Nation's World Health Assembly, provides countries with guidance on how to improve anesthesia patient safety globally. ASA and the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists championed the acceptance of this important patient safety document.



The SAFE-T Summit and the International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia - Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation

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The following article is a summary of the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists' (WFSA's) "Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia" that was approved...

The AANA Board of Directors objected to a set of statements with the WHO standards that (for anesthesia) "its safe provision requires a high level of expertise in medical diagnosis, pharmacology, physiology, and anatomy, as well as considerable practical skill" and "wherever and whenever possible, anesthesia should be provided, led, or overseen by an anesthesiologist" It is notable that this statement had been previously published in June 2018 by *Anesthesia & Analgesia* as well as the *Canadian Journal of Anaesthesia*. The AANA strongly requested that APSF retract or modify the summary; the APSF declined the request as the article was factual and important to improving patient safety worldwide. Subsequently, the AANA Board of Directors decided to no longer financially support APSF's mission of patient safety.

APSF will continue to serve the specialty and ASA through its promotion of perioperative patient safety. Despite the AANA action, APSF remains dedicated to its basic vision that no one shall be harmed by anesthesia care. We believe that all anesthesia professionals, regardless of their titles and training, play vital roles in providing safe anesthesia and perioperative care. We respect all anesthesia professionals and their important contributions to anesthesia patient safety.

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