August 2017

Today’s Anesthesia Administrator - Today’s Challenges

By
Steve Comess, MHSA
Genie Blough, MBA, FACMPE

Not yesterday’s administrator – today’s successful anesthesia administrator must be adaptive, remain current on regulations impacting practices and communicate adeptly across various forms: speech, text messaging and email. Skills don’t grow on trees, they are recruited, nurtured, modified and sustained according to the organizational and environmental needs.

At one time, it was enough to manage the day to day business affairs of a practice... billing, collections, financial reporting and scheduling of personnel. The legal and regulatory demands go far beyond these responsibilities and failure to meet these requirements may have costly and lasting consequences. The administrator engages with the physician leadership to ensure that the practice has a clear understanding of the legal and regulatory implications which are moving targets in the current healthcare arena.

A competent practice executive has a demonstrated track record in education, professional development and management of complex clinical practices, including both human resource and compliance matters. With a changing workforce, a dynamic healthcare environment which increases its pressures on practices daily and constrained resources, the executive must be creative in approaching these challenges as he/she identifies solutions, works with physician leadership and communicates options to staff.

All options and plans for implementation should be built on facts! Information is easily accessible through professional resources provided by ASA and its associated state organizations. One way for the practice executive to access this information is through membership in the Anesthesia Administrators and Executives membership category of ASA. Leadership, both physician and executive, do not have to reinvent the wheel.

Notice: This memo was prepared by the author in his/her personal capacity. The opinions expressed within are the author’s own and do not reflect the view of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.
Challenges such as:

- MIPS / MACRA Compliance
- Hospital Contracting
- Recruitment and Retention Issues
- Compensation Matters
- HR Regulations

are just a few of the major issues and access to expert resources is possible through conferences such as the Anesthesia Administrators and Executives’ Conference and the Conference on Practice Management. These programs, in addition to print and webinar resources, provide hands-on advice and tools with which both physician and executive leadership may rise to the challenges of “at home” issues. With many “hot topic” issues for the anesthesia practice professional, the community of administrators provides support and information in an open exchange of ideas and pathways for success. Membership in ASA-AAE is the perfect complement to membership in the MGMA Anesthesia Community. These two resources, when combined, cover the waterfront of education, networking, strategic initiatives and regulatory updates. We have always maintained that our specialty is different, and through the AAE both seasoned administrators and those new to the specialty can find a community of support.