



**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUES
PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO ESTABLISH LICENSURE AND PRACTICE
REGULATIONS FOR ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS**

On October 14, 2005, the Director of the Department of Health for the District of Columbia gave notice of his intent to take final rulemaking actions to adopt amendments to Title 17 to establish licensure and practice regulations for the newly established profession of anesthesiologist assistant. The amendments add a new Chapter 52, and are likely to become effective in mid November 2005. The new Chapter delineates procedures for licensure, renewal, and continuing education requirements.

Importantly, the new provisions also outline the scope of practice for anesthesiologist assistants. Notably, Section 5214.1 provides, “[a] supervising anesthesiologist shall be immediately available to participate directly in the care of the patient whom the anesthesiologist assistant and the supervising anesthesiologist are jointly treating[.]” (emphasis added).

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Susan Phillips
Jackson & Campbell, P.C.
1120 Twentieth Street, N.W.
South Tower
Washington, DC 20036-3437
Phone: (202) 457-1626
Fax: (202) 457-1679
E-mail: sphillips@jackscamp.com
Web Site <http://www.jackscamp.com>

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