

## **IV Anesthetics: Court Faults Use Of Non-Licensed Personnel.**

The Court of Appeals of Washington upheld sanctions imposed by the state Department of Health on two dentists practicing in the same office who routinely had “surgical assistants” start IV’s and administer anesthetics through IV lines.

The court went through the language which defines the scope of practice of various non-licensed credentialed health care personnel. First, there is no such thing as a “surgical assistant” under state law in Washington. Second, other persons such as surgical technicians are not allowed to start IV’s or to administer medications.

The bottom line was that starting IV’s and administering medications, in this case pushing anesthetics through IV lines, is strictly within the scope of nursing and medical practice. Lang v. Dept. of Health, \_\_\_ P. 3d \_\_\_, 2007 WL 1218011 (Wash. App., April 26, 2007).