

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2  
SECTION: 1.2  
TITLE: **ANESTHESIA ADMINISTERED BY OPERATING SURGEON**

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**AUTHORITY:** 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

**RELATED AUTHORITY:** 32 CFR 199.4(c)(3)(viii)

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### I. EFFECTIVE DATE

January 23, 1984

### II. POLICY

Administration of general anesthesia by the operating surgeon is not covered.

### III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. If the surgeon bills a single charge, which includes both the surgery and the anesthesia, a breakdown of the charge should be obtained and the anesthesia services denied. When a breakdown of charges is not available, payment will be based on the allowable charge for the surgery alone.

B. This exclusion applies only to general anesthesia administered by the operating surgeon in a surgical suite. It does not apply to cases involving administration of local or regional anesthesia such as local anesthesia administered by a surgeon in the surgeon's office, by an obstetrician in a delivery room, or by an orthopedic surgeon in an operating room. Local or regional anesthesia is covered and is included in the prevailing profile for the surgery.

C. Conscious sedation, when administered by the physician who performs the procedure, is considered to be clinically integral to the primary procedure, and would not warrant separate reimbursement.

**\*END OF POLICY\***