



College of Respiratory  
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes  
respiratoires de l'Ontario

# RRTs WORKING AS AAs

Practice FAQs

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I am an RT working as an AA working in Ontario and have heard that the CSRT has a new Clinical Anesthesia Assistant certification. If I obtain this certification through the CSRT, do I still need to be a member of the CRTO to continue working as an AA?

## ANSWER

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Yes, in order for an RT to practise in the capacity of an Anesthesia Assistant (AA) in Ontario, they must be registered with the CRTO.

It is important to understand that the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) and the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO) are very separate organizations with distinctly different mandates. The role of the CSRT is professional advocacy, whereas the CRTO is professional regulation. Therefore, the CRTO sets the practice requirements for RTs in Ontario. The CSRT's Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistant (CCAA) initiative is a voluntary program intended to recognize the AA role, but does not replace the mandatory requirement to be registered Member of the CRTO.

The title "Anesthesia Assistant" describes an important role that a number of RTs (as well as others) play in the healthcare system, but is not a title that is protected in regulation. This means that neither the AA title nor the CSRT's certification program provides the requisite authority to perform controlled acts such as intubation, ventilation and medication administration. RTs working as AAs are permitted to perform these controlled acts by virtue of being Registered Respiratory Therapists.