



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Being successful in obtaining legislation and regulation for cleaner air in the PACU will require individual nurses partnering with key stake holders.

ASPAN is here to support this process and *you*.

Here are steps you can take with ASPAN's Governmental Affairs and ASPAN's Collaborative Advocacy SWT now to advocate for cleaner air and control of Waste Anesthetic Gases (WAGs)



ASPAN's Clean Air Campaign –LET'S GET STARTED

ASPAN's Checklist for Waste Anesthetic Gases (WAGs) Legislation

- Join your state's nurses' association** there is power in numbers! Share your concerns about WAGs in the PACU
- The Joint Commission open to comments ending on May 3, 2023. ASPAN Collaborative Advocacy SWT suggests individuals' request that TJC adds "Waste Anesthetic Gas (WAGs) source levels reduced inside and outside the Operating rooms, areas such as Post Anesthesia Care Unit and other units receiving patients who had general anesthesia directly from the OR and patients are exhaling WAGs 95% unmetabolized" to their intent for hospitals to reduce anesthetic gas use:
https://jointcommission.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cMRS05zW17t26RE
- Share ASPAN resources (WAGs whitepaper, position statement and recorded WAGs event) with leaders at your facility, in your community and with other nurses
- Explore opportunities to educate your **state legislators** about the hazards of occupational exposure to Waste Anesthetic Gases
- Discuss WAGs** with other nurses and ASPAN members in your component to discover their commitment or interest in reducing exposure, some questions to ask them:
 - Is your facility leadership aware of health implications with WAGs exposure in the PACU? WAGs impact on the environment and climate change?
 - If so, have they implemented engineering controls to remove WAGs (ie scavenging masks in the PACU and increased fresh air exchanges)?
 - Does your facility have a surveillance program for air quality in the PACU? If so, are the results shared with nurses? Are they collecting data during high use of PACU and in the breathing zone of nurses?

For Education and resources on this campaign, please email ASPAN Collaborative Advocacy SWT coordinators ecard@aspan.org and visit the ASPAN Advocacy Website: <https://www.aspan.org/Publications-Resources/White-Papers>

[Scotland becomes the first country to ban the high-emissions anaesthetic desflurane | Euronews](#) [UN declares healthy environment – including clean air – a human right | Climate & Clean Air Coalition \(ccacoalition.org\)](#)

[Anesthetic Gases: Guidelines for Workplace Exposures | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](#)



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ASPAN
Government
Affairs Team
is also taking
action



ASPAN Government affairs checklist for action:

- Explore House and Senate Health Committees to identify individuals with a healthcare background to educate and engage in ASPANs concerns about unrecognized and unregulated WAGs in the PACU
- Identify and lead early discussions with state agencies that license hospitals
- Explore and identify any competing nursing priorities in each state and request input from identified states nursing associations
- Spearhead discussions with state hospital associations to educate on the negative health implications related to WAGs exposure and to discover their position on upcoming legislation or initiatives
- Research if any perianesthesia nurses are connected to a state's organization of nurse executives
- Determine and evaluate if there are competing nursing priorities in each state and request support from those states nursing associations.

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