

Consultation: Review of the Scope of Practice for Anaesthetic Technology Practitioners



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

Please note these slides are derived from the consultation document and were used solely for the webinar.

Agenda: Key Points of Discussion

Opening Karakia and Welcome: Dr Susan Calvert

Scopes of Practice Review - An Introduction: Dr Susan Calvert

Proposal 1: Rename Scope of Practice: Angela Dewhirst

Proposal 2: A Broader Scope: Brett Besley

Proposal 3: Perioperative Practitioner – Scope Definition and Qualification Pathways: Caleb Bridgeman

Proposal 4: Supervision Requirements: Brett Besley

Perioperative Practice: Caleb Bridgeman

Questions and Answers

Closing Karakia: Dr Susan Calvert

Opening Karakia

Te Reo Māori

Kia hora te marino

Kia whakapapa pounamu
te moana

Hei huarahi mā tātou i te
rangi nei

Aroha atu, aroha mai

Tātou i ā tātou katoa

Hui e, taiki e

English

May peace be widespread

May the sea be like
greenstone

A pathway for us all this day

Let us show respect for each
other

For one another

Bind us all together

Scopes of Practice Review: Introduction

The Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand is appointed under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 to regulate the practice of Anaesthetic Technology practitioners. Its purpose is to protect the Health and Safety of the public of Aotearoa | New Zealand.

It is responsible for setting the scope of practice and standards of clinical and cultural competence required of practitioners and for approving qualifications that lead to entry to the register.

The Council has a regular programme of review to ensure the regulatory policies and standards in place for Anaesthetic Technicians continues to be fit for purpose.

This review of the scope of practice has been undertaken as a component of the Council's regulatory review programme.

Why is the Council proposing a Change?

From Anaesthetic Technician to Perioperative Practitioner

Practice and the healthcare landscape has changed. Engagement with the profession suggests that the current scope of practice is not contemporary.

Broader Scope of practice

Enabling more flexibility in practice and allowing practitioners a greater ability to practise within their area of skill and competence is seen as being beneficial to both practitioners and providers.

New qualification pathways

The qualification pathways will be updated to reflect the change to a perioperative degree.

Having a degree level qualification will provide practitioners with opportunities to develop their and professional practice through access to higher education.



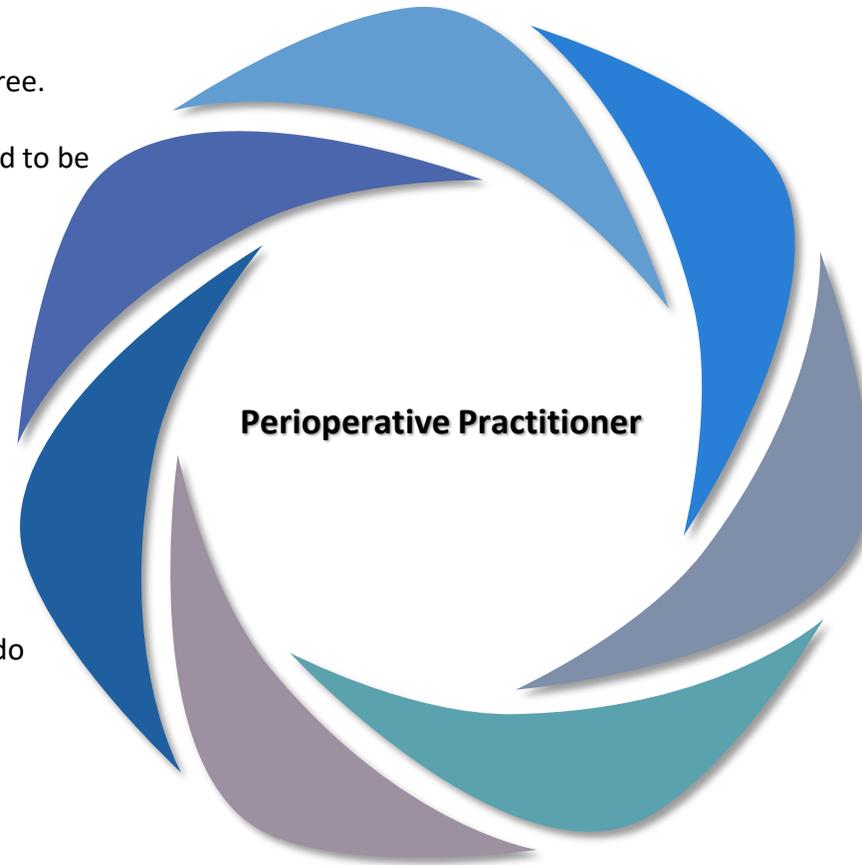
Proposal One – Rename the Title

- Since 2011, the scope of practice has broadened with practitioners being able to work in and across the theatre and perioperative environment.
- The title could be viewed as somewhat restrictive given the changing practice of the workforce.
- Renaming the title aligns with the ability for practitioners to practise across the perioperative space.
- The proposed title “Perioperative Practitioner” reflects the range of work undertaken by Anaesthetic Technicians.

Proposal 2: A Broader Scope - Key Features of the Perioperative Practitioner

- The qualification for entry to the register is a degree. Those completing this qualification will develop knowledge and skill in areas previously considered to be “expanded practice”.

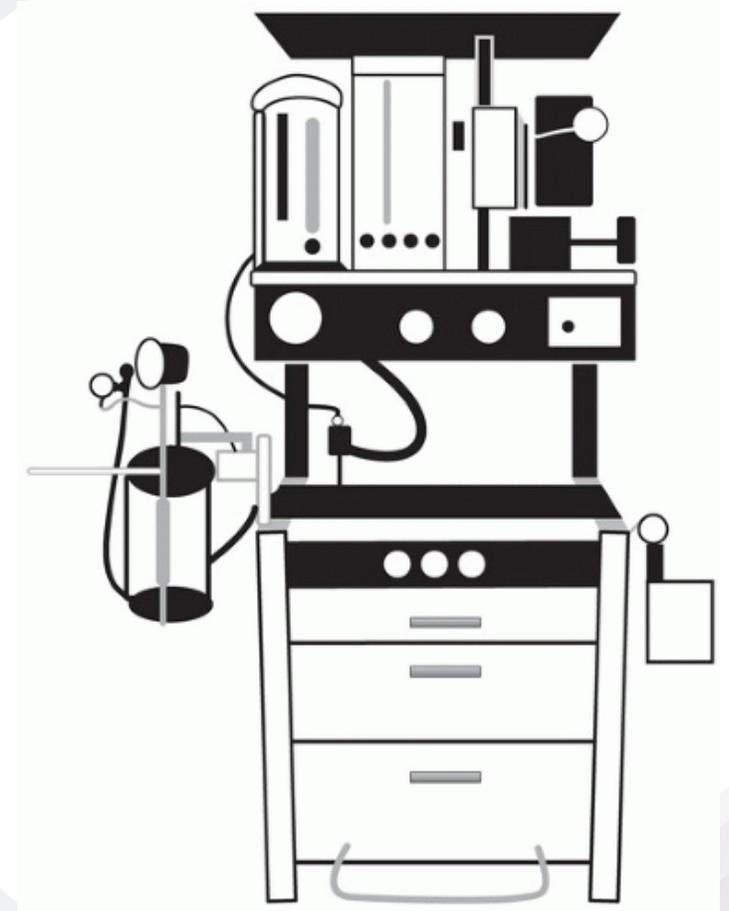
- Must ensure they practise safely and effectively within their area(s) of competence and do not practise in areas where they are not proficient to do so.



- Inclusive workplace titles:
 - Perioperative Practitioner
 - Perioperative Practitioner – anaesthetics
 - Anaesthetic Technician
 - Operating Department Practitioner
- The scope review is aimed at broadening opportunities for all practitioners. Anaesthetic Technicians already registered with the Council will continue to work in the same professional manner and will not become obsolete.
- The concept of “expanded practice” will become obsolete. However, all practitioners may, with appropriate education, insert PICC lines and work in theatre in scrub, circulating and traditional anaesthetic technician roles as well as pre-operative care and PACU.

Proposal 3: Perioperative Practitioner – Scope Definition and Qualification Pathways

- The qualification for entry to the register will be updated to recognise the change to the Bachelor of Health Science (perioperative practice) degree.
- Graduates from the Diploma in Applied Sciences (Anaesthetic Technology) will continue to be eligible for registration provided they have met all requirements for registration. This pathway will cease in early 2024.
- Proposal to add an additional pathway that provides an opportunity for applicants who hold a “sufficiently” relevant degree to seek registration.



Proposal 4: All new practitioners will be required to complete a period of supervision



It is proposed that all newly registered practitioners (which includes those registered from overseas) will complete a period of supervision.

This will require the practitioner to be supervised by another anaesthetic technician with a current practising certificate who has appropriate expertise and knowledge in practice. The purpose is to provide reassurance to the Council that practitioners new to practise have the appropriate support and guidance as they intergrate into practice in Aotearoa | New Zealand.



From a regulatory perspective, supervision is an important tool in protecting the health and safety of the public. As registered health practitioners under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, all practitioners have responsibilities to ensure they are competent and safe to practise.

Supervision ensures practitioners begin their practice with a robust foundation that will provide them with the confidence and skill necessary to work in their profession.



Decisions around which clinical practice areas a practitioner may work in is an employment matter.

The proposed scope definition states that all practitioners must ensure they practise within their area(s) of competence, skill and education, and do not practise in areas where they are not proficient to do so. The Council considers the supervision requirement will ensure newly registered practitioners gain the necessary familiarity with practice as a Perioperative Practitioner.

Perioperative Practice

Practitioners should be able to practise across the perioperative environment. The Council proposes that currently registered and practising practitioners who have completed appropriate education, will be able to practise across areas and complete skills that are currently known as “expanded practice”.

- That is they will be able to insert PICC lines and work in theatre in scrub, circulating and traditional anaesthetic technician roles, as well as pre-operative care and PACU.

PACU	Post Anaesthetic Care Unit
PICC	Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters
Scrub Assistant	Provide surgeon or proceduralist with skilled support to facilitate safe and effective patient care. The scrub assistant selects and handles instruments and surgical devices used in surgeries
Circulating Role	Circulating Practitioner/s

Questions & Answers



Closing Karakia

Te Reo Māori

Kia Whakairia te tapu

Kia wātea ai te ara

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Haumi e

Hui e

Tāiki e

English

Restrictions are moved aside

So the pathway is clear

To return to everyday
activities

To return to everyday
activities

Enriched, unified & blessed