



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

**Required Competencies:  
Anaesthetic Technicians**

## The Profession of Anaesthetic Technology

Anaesthetic Technology is the provision of perioperative technical management and patient care for supporting the provision of quality health care and safe anaesthetic services in New Zealand accredited health facilities

Activities included in this definition, but not limited to, are:

- anaesthetic related research and development
- applied science and anaesthetic technology education
- advanced patient monitoring
- collection of samples for diagnostic investigation
- management

## Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice

An **Anaesthetic Technician** is a member of an anaesthetic care team, working collaboratively with other health professionals.

### An Anaesthetic Technician:

- Utilises technical and clinical judgment to assess peri-operative requirements and provide patient care and assistance during all aspects of anaesthetic administration and during anaesthetic related procedures.
- Cannot prescribe and/or administer agents used for general anaesthesia and/or sedation independently. Administration of anaesthetic agents can only occur in an assisting role under the direction of a Medical Anaesthetist<sup>1</sup>, or Intensive Care Specialist.
- Provides support to the Medical Anaesthetist/Intensive Care Specialist and collaborates and works alongside other health professionals during peri-operative, intervention and investigative procedures.
- Provides anaesthetic assistance in operating departments, radiology and MRI units, intensive care, obstetric and emergency departments and any other area where anaesthesia is administered.
- Provides support for the safe transportation of patients, within the hospital environment and/or between other hospitals or surgical healthcare facilities.
- Works as a team member alongside other health workers<sup>2</sup>
- Provides physical and emotional support to the patient to enhance the safe outcome of anaesthetic procedures.
- Anticipates and prepares the equipment, monitoring and other requirements specific to each anaesthetic procedure.

---

<sup>1</sup> In this context "Medical Anaesthetist" includes Anaesthetists in training

<sup>2</sup> This may include working alongside people who are unregistered and/or unqualified

## Introduction

This document describes the competencies required for registration with the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand in order to practise as an Anaesthetic Technician in New Zealand.

These competencies support a number of purposes including:

Describe the minimum clinical, cultural and ethical competencies and standards that Anaesthetic Technicians are expected to maintain and practise.

Include the attitudes and values that all registrants must perform to acceptable ethical, cultural, and legal standards.

Inform the public of New Zealand of the standards Anaesthetic Technicians will observe.

Used as a basis for the assessment of applications for registration.

They underpin the content of the Anaesthetic Technician registration examination

They are a resource for educational institutions offering the prescribed qualification in anaesthetic technology.

Provide a cross-reference/assessment tool against which to measure overseas qualifications for registration in New Zealand.

Provide the standards when carrying out any reviews of professional competence.

Provide a measurement tool against which to monitor programme delivery in educational institutions.

## Competency One: Demonstrates Professional Responsibility

### Outcome

Acts in accordance with ethical, legal, professional and regulatory requirements

### Standards

- 1.1 Practice complies with the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003
  - Understands requirements for registration and practice as a health practitioner in New Zealand
  - Practises within the Anaesthetic Technician scope of practice and within any conditions specified, and holds a current practising certificate
- 1.2 Complies with other relevant legislation and codes including:
  - Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights
  - Health Information Privacy Code
  - Medicines Act 1981
  - Misuse of Drugs Act
  - Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Guidelines
- 1.3 Maintains the privacy and confidentiality of patients.
- 1.4 When appropriate, the Anaesthetic Technician ensures informed consent is obtained prior to any medical or surgical treatment, investigative or interventional procedure.
- 1.5 Applies the principles of quality assurance and improvement: to anaesthetic technology practice
  - Understands and accesses workplace policies and procedures to meet and improve performance standards
- 1.6 Manages workload and resources effectively and efficiently including:
  - Prioritising workload.
  - Responding to urgent requests.
  - Timely completion of tasks.
- 1.7 Demonstrates problem solving skills:
  - Initiates resolution of problems.
  - Evaluates outcomes and modifies processes where appropriate.
- 1.8 Works collaboratively:
  - Demonstrates good working relationships with colleagues and service users.
  - Contributes to team objectives.
  - Shares knowledge and supports colleagues.

- 1.9 Demonstrates accountability:
- Maintains accuracy.
  - Takes responsibility for professional decisions and actions.
  - Recognises limitations in knowledge, skills and experience and seeks assistance when required.
  - Takes appropriate action when stress or other mental or physical conditions affect the ability of self or colleagues to function as a health practitioner.
- 1.10 Takes responsibility for the training, direction and/or supervision of others, as appropriate
- Where appropriate takes responsibility for training of staff.
  - Where appropriate takes responsibility for supervision of trainee Anaesthetic Technicians
- 1.11 Maintains current knowledge in Anaesthetic Technology:
- Continues to develop knowledge and skills
  - Actively engages in a Council-approved recertification programme
  - Critically reviews and evaluates new and existing methods and applies new procedures as appropriate.
  - Reviews effectiveness of practice and modifies accordingly.

## Competency Two: Demonstrates Professional Practice

### Outcomes

Provides dedicated professional, clinical and technical assistance to the Medical Anaesthetist or Intensive-Care Physician; and

Protects patients from physical danger and avoidable risk.

### Standards

- 2.1 Demonstrates understanding and knowledge of the principles and processes of anaesthetic practice.
- 2.2 Demonstrates knowledge of the equipment required for anaesthetic procedures including functions, application and hazards in practice.
- 2.3 Demonstrates the correct and safe operation of anaesthesia equipment:
  - Preparation of the anaesthetic machine, ancillary, monitoring, intravenous administration, warming, emergency and resuscitation equipment, ensuring it is in a safe, clean and functional state.
  - Cleaning, decontamination and/or sterilisation, storage, care and maintenance of anaesthetic equipment.
  - Appropriate disposal of single use items is understood and processes followed as part of daily practice.
- 2.4 Takes appropriate measures when stress or other mental or physical conditions affect the ability of self or colleagues to function as a health practitioner.
- 2.5 Ensures the ready availability of appropriate pharmacological agents, and intravenous fluids including blood and blood products and checks items appropriately.
- 2.6 Demonstrates understanding and knowledge of the principles and practice of:
  - Aseptic technique.
  - Universal Standards.
  - Infection Control.
  - Occupational Health and Safety.
  - Waste Management.
  - Risk Management.
  - Stock control.
- 2.7 Works in a systematic and planned approach to meet the needs of the patient:
  - Collaborates with the Medical Anaesthetist to deliver the appropriate anaesthetic plan for each patient
  - Confirms patient identity, allergy status and procedure
  - Ensures informed consent has been obtained prior to any medical or surgical treatment investigative or interventional procedure, as appropriate
  - Assists with patient positioning, ensuring their privacy and dignity is maintained throughout the procedure

- Checks patient for signs of emotional stress and reassures and comforts patient in a timely and effective manner
  - Acts as an advocate for the patient
  - Checks that documentation is correct and readily available
  - Provides support for the safe transportation of the patient
- 2.8 Ensures patient, personal, colleague and public safety
- Practises in accordance with health and safety legislation and workplace safety policies and procedures
  - Identifies and manages environment hazards including fire, electrical, mechanical, biological, chemical, radiation and Occupational Overuse Syndrome
  - Handles, stores, transports and disposes of hazardous chemical and biological material appropriately
  - Evaluates practice to provide safe outcomes

## Competency Three: Demonstrates Sound Interpersonal Skills

### Outcome

Communicates effectively with patients, colleagues, other health professionals and the public.

Works collaboratively as a member of the anaesthetic team

### Standard

- 3.1 Demonstrates competence in written and oral English.
- 3.2 Uses appropriate language in context.
- 3.3 Accurately records and reports patient needs and outcomes in a clear, timely and appropriate format.
- 3.4 Uses a range of communication skills to convey information and instructions:
  - Ensures all communication is clear, concise and accurate.
  - Communicates in a style and format to meet needs of listeners, recognising cultural differences that may affect communication.
- 3.5 Works collegially and communicates effectively with other Anaesthetic Technicians and health professionals

## Competency Four: Demonstrates Culturally Safe Practice

### Outcome

Takes the socio-cultural values of others into account in all aspects of daily practice.

Incorporates the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi into daily practice

### Standards

- 4.1 Demonstrates an understanding of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi - Participation, Partnership and Protection.
- 4.2 Incorporates the four cornerstones of Maori health - whanau (family health); tinana (physical health); hinengaro (mental health); and wairua (spiritual health) – into Anaesthetic Technology practice.
- 4.3 Recognises own beliefs, values and prejudices and the impact these may have on patients and colleagues.
- 4.4 Recognises cultural diversity including, but not limited to, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, migrant experience, disability.
- 4.5 Recognises and responds to the values, beliefs and cultural practices of patients when undertaking anaesthetic procedures
- 4.6 Practises in a manner that is respectful and inclusive of others.