



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

# ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR TRAINING HOSPITALS (ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIANS)

In October 2019 the Medical Sciences Council issued a consultation document proposing a set of revised standards for the accreditation of New Zealand hospitals employing trainee anaesthetic technicians. This report provides a summary of the consultation feedback and the Council's subsequent decision in respect of the accreditation standards that are now adopted.

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## Introduction

The Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand (the Council) thanks the training hospitals (anaesthetic technicians) who provided feedback on the revised policy *Accreditation of Anaesthetic Technician Training Hospitals*.

## Consultation Feedback

The Council received feedback from eight training hospitals with the majority of the respondents (88%) expressing their support of the revised standards.

One respondent suggested some grammatical improvements to the document to provide more clarity to training hospitals. The final edition of the standards has been amended where appropriate to incorporate those suggestions.

## Relationship between the Revised Standards and the new Degree Programme

There appeared to some confusion as to the relationship between the revised standards and the pending introduction of a new degree programme.

For the sake of clarity the Council has confirmed that the revised set of proposed accreditation standards as issued in late 2019 and as referred to in this document, apply only in respect to trainee anaesthetic technicians who are enrolled in the current Diploma in Applied Science (Anaesthetic Technology) with the Auckland University of Technology (AUT).

The accreditation standards will not apply to the new degree programme to be offered by the AUT (the date for the availability of the degree programmes is still to be confirmed).

In the meantime, trainee anaesthetic technicians have been employed in training hospitals around New Zealand and a further (probably final) intake of trainees under the diploma programme is scheduled for 2021. Subsequently the revised accreditation standards will continue to be relevant for those training hospitals employing trainee anaesthetic technicians up until 2023/2024 (that is, 3-years post a 2021 intake of diploma programme trainees).

## Clarification on Paediatric Anaesthesia Clinical Placements

There was a query from one respondent as to whether or not the clinical placements for trainees doing their 4-week rotation in paediatric anaesthesia still need to be undertaken in an accredited training hospital.

For the sake of clarity, the Council advises that all clinical placements for trainees, irrespective of the particular area of anaesthesia activity, must be undertaken in an accredited training hospital.

## Council Decision

Taking into account the high level of support for the revised standards as indicated through the consultation feedback received from training hospitals, the Council is pleased to advise that the policy titled *Accreditation of Anaesthetic Technician Training Hospitals* has been adopted as set out in the October 2019 consultation process. A copy of the standards are now available on the Council website at [www.msccouncil.org.nz](http://www.msccouncil.org.nz)