



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

Policy

Anaesthetic Technician Registration Policy

Effective 01 April 2025

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| Policy Title | AT Registration Policy |
| Reference Number | 20250326-MSC-AT-Registration |
| Scope | This policy applies to all practitioners applying for registration with the Medical Sciences Council in the anaesthetic technician scope of practice |

| Associated Policy Documents | |
|--|--|
| Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice | Scope of Practice and Prescribed Qualifications for the Practice of Anaesthetic Technology |
| Registration and Recertification Operational Manual | |
| Anaesthetic Technician Qualification Assessments | AT Qual Assessments (FORMATTED).docx |
| English Language Proficiency | English Language Proficiency Policy |
| New Graduate Recertification (Supervision) | AT New Graduate Recertification (Supervision) Policy |
| Supervision as a Condition for Anaesthetic Technicians | Supervision as a Condition for Anaesthetic Technicians Policy |

| Revision Schedule | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Version Number | Version Date | Approved By | Next Review |
| One | 2012 | Medical Sciences Council | 2014 |
| Two | March 2019 | Medical Sciences Council | 2021 |
| Three | May 2021 | Chief Executive | 2023 |
| Four | March 2025 | Medical Sciences Council | 2028 |

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Policy overview

1. Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora O Aotearoa | The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) is responsible under the [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003](#) (the Act) for the registration and recertification of anaesthetic technicians.
2. This policy document sets out the requirements for registration in the anaesthetic technician scope of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Legislative context

3. Sections 15-25 of the HPCA Act set out the legislative requirements for registration of health practitioners.
4. In accordance with section 7 of the Act, an unregistered person may not use any of the names, titles, and/or abbreviations used for the anaesthetic technology scope of practice or do anything to suggest that they are qualified to be registered or able to practise in that scope.

Policy statement

5. The Council will only register persons who meet the qualifications, competence, and fitness for registration requirements as stated in the Act and this policy.

Scope of practice

6. The Council has specified one scope of practice under section 11 of the Act:
 - Anaesthetic Technician
7. The current Scope of Practice and Prescribed Qualifications for the Practice of Anaesthetic Technology are published in the NZ gazette ([here](#)).

Qualifications for registration

8. Under section 12 of the Act the Council has prescribed qualifications for the purpose of registration in the anaesthetic technician scope of practice.
9. If a practitioner does not hold one of the prescribed qualifications, under section 15 of the Act, the Council may treat an overseas qualification as a prescribed qualification if the qualification has been assessed as being equivalent to a prescribed qualification.

Prescribed New Zealand qualifications

10. The Council has prescribed the following New Zealand qualification. The providers of the prescribed qualifications are subject to an ongoing accreditation and monitoring process to ensure the programme of study continues to be fit for the purpose of registration as a health

practitioner under the Act. Graduating students must meet the entry-level competencies required of anaesthetic technology practitioners as defined in the current competence standards. [Competence standards for Anaesthetic Technicians](#).

| Qualification Title | Education Institution | Scope of Practice Registration |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bachelor of Health Science Perioperative Practice | Auckland University of Technology | Anaesthetic Technician |

Overseas qualifications

11. All qualifications from internationally qualified practitioners are subject to an assessment to determine if they meet the equivalency required by the Act.
12. Initial assessments are conducted by the Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS) Regulation Advisors under the direction of the Deputy Registrar. When further advice is required, this is sought from professional advisors.
13. Assessments are based on set criteria that are applied to all overseas qualifications. Details of the assessment criteria and subsequent registration pathways are set out in the Council's [Qualification Assessments](#) policy.

Registration examination

14. In the event of a qualification being assessed as not equivalent, the applicant may be offered an opportunity to sit a Council-approved examination. A successful pass in the examination is recognised as ensuring that the candidate has the required base knowledge for entry to the Register.

Competence/clinical experience

15. All applicants will also need to provide evidence that they are competent to practise in the relevant scope of practice.
16. Graduates of the prescribed qualifications are deemed competent at graduation by way of completion of the required qualification.
17. Clinical experience is articulated as a competence requirement for registration in accordance with sections 12 of the Act. Applicants must have sufficient clinical experience (in terms of time, breadth, and depth).
18. As a minimum, internationally qualified applicants with a non-equivalent qualification will need to demonstrate they have two years' FTE (3,600 hours) clinical experience in their anaesthetic technician scope of practice within the preceding five years.

Fitness for registration

19. Under section 16 of the Act, registration applicants must be able to satisfy the Council they are fit to be registered as a health practitioner to practise in Aotearoa New Zealand.
20. Fitness for registration includes consideration of:
21. Evidence of their ability to effectively communicate in and comprehend English so as to protect the health and safety of the public. The Council's English Language Proficiency policy can be found [here](#).
22. Any criminal conviction that carries a term of imprisonment, for three months or longer, with the Council needing to be satisfied it does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as an anaesthetic technology practitioner. The Council's Criminal History policy can be found [here](#).
23. Any previous and/or current professional disciplinary proceedings and/or investigations, with the Council needing to be satisfied that the investigation and/or proceeding does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise as anaesthetic technology practitioner.
24. If the applicant is subject to an order of a professional disciplinary tribunal, either in New Zealand or overseas, the Council will need to be satisfied that the order does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practice anaesthetic technology.
25. Provision of personal and professional references.
26. Registration applicants who provide evidence that they may not meet any of the above fitness to practice considerations, will be referred to the Registrar.
27. Further information regarding fitness for registration requirements can be found in the [Competence Standards](#).

Post-registration

28. Practitioners new to the register may be required to complete specific requirements, such as a period of supervised practice or education.
29. All new graduate anaesthetic technicians are required to comply with the [AT New Graduate Recertification \(Supervision\) Policy](#).

Application process

30. All registration applications are made electronically through the Council's website.

Documentation

31. Applicants need to provide supporting documents. These will be sourced directly where possible and verified by Council staff.

32. The Council may request original and/or verified copy versions of documents.

Registration fee

33. All registration applications must include a payment of the relevant fee for them to proceed through to being processed for consideration.

34. Fees are set out in the Council's current [Gazette Notice](#).