

Policy

Anaesthetic Technician Locum Practice

Effective 19 August 2025

Policy title	Anaesthetic Technician Locum Practice Policy
Reference number	20250819 AT Locum Practice Policy
Scope	This policy applies to anaesthetic technicians registered with Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora o Aotearoa Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand practising in a locum capacity

Associated documents	File name
Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice	Notice-of-Scope-of-Practice-and-Prescribed-Qualifications-for-the-practice-of-Anaesthetic-Technology.pdf
Competence Standards for Anaesthetic Technicians	Competence standards for anaesthetic technicians 2025
Practising Certificate policy	2021-May-Practising-Certificates-Policy.pdf
Registration policy	2025-Mar-AT-Registration-Policy.pdf
Recertification – New Graduate policy	2025-Jan-AT-New-Graduate-Recertification-Supervision-Policy.pdf
Supervision as a Condition policy	2025-Jan-AT-Supervision-as-a-Condition-Policy.pdf

Revision Schedule			
Version number	Version date	Approved by	Next review
One	November 2018	MSC	2020
Two	May 2020	MSC	2022
Three	August 2025	MSC	2028

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Legislative context

1. The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) is responsible for the regulation of anaesthetic technology practitioners under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. The Council's core function is to protect the health and safety of the public by ensuring anaesthetic technicians are competent and fit to practise.

Policy statement

2. All anaesthetic technicians working in a locum capacity must be registered with the Council and hold an annual practising certificate. Practitioners working in a locum capacity must not have a requirement for supervision on their practice.

Definitions

Locum

3. A locum practitioner is one who is contracted for a short period of time to work as an anaesthetic technician in one or more locations. This may be to replace existing staff or in response to staff vacancies.

Supervision

4. Supervision serves to protect the health and safety of the public. It is a formal process of professional support and learning to enable the practitioner to build on their knowledge, skills and professional attributes, and to progressively assume responsibility for their own practice. The Council may require a practitioner to be under supervision for a variety of reasons. Supervision is applied as part of the new graduate recertification programme to support practitioners into the transition from student to health practitioner. Supervision is also often required for practitioners new to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Council may also use supervision where a practitioner is subject to a competence, conduct or fitness requirements.

Scope

5. This policy applies to all anaesthetic technicians providing services in a locum capacity in Aotearoa New Zealand. This includes practitioners who come from overseas to take up a locum anaesthetic technician position and then return to their country of residence once the period of locum work has ceased.

Background

6. Anaesthetic technicians may work in a locum capacity for a wide variety of reasons. They may work in both public and privately funded facilities.
7. Practitioners working as an anaesthetic technician in Aotearoa New Zealand are required to be registered with the Medical Sciences Council and hold a current practising certificate, regardless of the length of the locum contract or the facility worked in.
8. Anaesthetic technicians working in a locum capacity are required to practise within the Scope of Practice and Competence standards along with other relevant Council statements and information.
9. Practitioners who have a requirement for supervision on their practice **cannot** work in a locum capacity.
10. The Council expects that anaesthetic technicians working in a locum capacity undertake appropriate orientation to the place of employment.

Responsibilities when working in a locum capacity

Anaesthetic technician	Employer
Ensures that they have no supervision requirement on their practice	Ensures the anaesthetic technician is registered with a current practising certificate with no requirement for supervision on their practice.
Practices within all Council requirements for anaesthetic technicians	Provides the anaesthetic technician with appropriate orientation to the place of work