**Consultation -**

Anaesthetic technicians and safe sedation standard

 *October 2025*

Proposed standard

Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora O Aotearoa | The Medical Sciences Council is responsible for protecting the health and safety of New Zealanders by ensuring practitioners registered in the profession of anaesthetic technology are competent and fit to practise. The Council sets standards to ensure that practitioners, employers, and the public are aware of the expectations from anaesthetic technicians when working with someone who requires sedation.

The Council has put together a draft standard outlining the expectations for anaesthetic technicians involved in the provision of sedation.

This consultation seeks to establish a clear, evidence-based standard for anaesthetic technicians involved in sedation practices. It aims to ensure patient safety, professional accountability, and consistency across healthcare settings. The previous sedation guidance has been reviewed and updated to reflect the new scope of practice (April 2025) and competence standards (April 2025).

The Council is now asking for feedback from members of the profession, practitioners working within sedation and other interested groups.

The consultation period will run from 16 October to 5pm, 3 December 2025. A survey to provide feedback on the standard is available on the Council’s website under the News page.

All feedback will be carefully reviewed by the Council before the standard is finalised.

Background

Anaesthetic technicians play a critical role in supporting sedation procedures across a variety of clinical environments. The Council has reviewed the standard for Anaesthetic Technician’s involved in sedation following the development of the updated scope of practice and competence standards (2025). It is now consulting on the proposed sedation standard to receive feedback from the profession and stakeholders.

The document sets the standard expected of Anaesthetic Technicians involved in sedation and may be used by the Council when considering the actions of an Anaesthetic Technician in this area of clinical practice. Anaesthetic Technicians working with sedation must adhere to this standard.

[20250926-Sedation-consult-doc.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mscouncil.org.nz%2Fassets_mlsb%2FUploads%2F20250926-Sedation-consult-doc.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

[20250605-AT-SOP-Sedation-DRAFTv4.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mscouncil.org.nz%2Fassets_mlsb%2FNews-files%2F20250605-AT-SOP-Sedation-DRAFTv4.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

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### FAQ’s

**Q: Why do the standards not list the medicines an anaesthetic technician can administer?**

A: A list of medicines may not remain current when new medicines or types of medicine become available. Any administration of a medicine by an Anaesthetic Technician must in accordance with the provider’s policies and procedures, including those administered under standing orders.

**Q: Do the standards apply when an anaesthetic technician is working with an anaesthetist?**

A: As a registered health professional, anaesthetic technicians remain responsible for their own practice regardless of who prescribes the medicine.

**Q: What qualifications does the Council require for an anaesthetic technician to work in the area of sedation?**

A: The Council requires anaesthetic technicians to have the appropriate competence to carry out any activity within the scope.

## Questions (via survey monkey)

**Name:**

**Group represented** (if on behalf of a group)**:**

**Are you anaesthetic technician?** Yes / No

1. Is the proposed standard appropriate for the current scope of anaesthetic technician practice? Y/N
* Why or why not? (free text)
1. Do you think an anaesthetic technician should be able to perform minimal or moderate conscious sedation without an anaesthetist or emergency specialist present? Y/N
* Why or why not?
1. What additional education do you think anaesthetic technicians should undertake to perform minimal or moderate conscious sedation without an anaesthetist or emergency specialist present?
* (free text)
1. Is there anything we have not explained clearly that you require additional clarification on?
2. Do you have any other feedback?