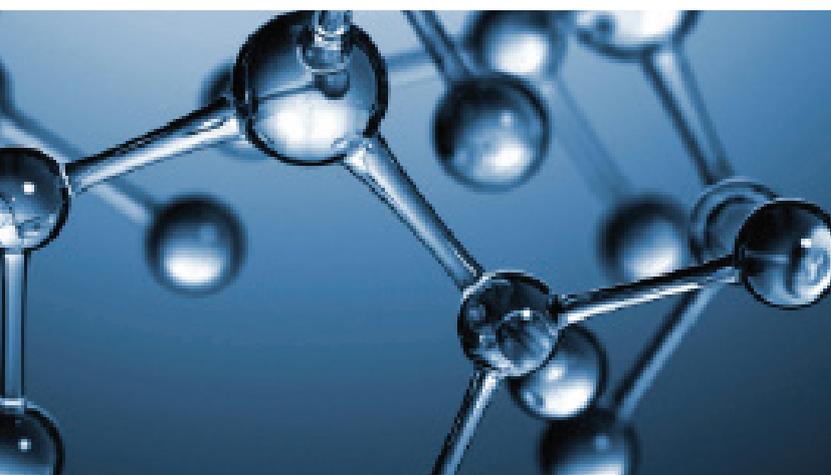


**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

# WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION

A GUIDE FOR ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIANS WORKING  
UNDER SUPERVISION, AND THEIR SUPERVISORS.



*Anaesthetic Technicians*

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*Working Under Supervision:*

*A guide for anaesthetic technician's working under supervision, and their supervisors.*

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## WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION

Under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) the Medical Sciences Council (the Council) can place a condition on a practitioner's scope of practice that will ensure they are competent to practise. This can include:

*A condition that the applicant practise subject to the supervision of one or more nominated health practitioners or health practitioners of a stated class (Section 22 [3] [a])*

Appropriate supervision provides assurance to the Council and the New Zealand public that a practitioner's practice is safe and does not pose a risk of harm to the public.

***This booklet sets out the principles and procedures essential for safe and effective supervision.***

The level of supervision can decrease as the trainee becomes increasingly knowledgeable and competent. The Council expects registered AT to provide supervision to trainee AT within the following framework:

*Registered anaesthetic technicians providing supervision must hold a current practising certificate.*

*This excludes holders of interim practising certificates or practising certificates that include conditions.*

## WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION LEVELS



Level of Supervision	Requirements
<b>Level One</b> <b>Direct Supervision</b>	<p>Trainees must be directly supervised by a registered AT at all times.</p> <p>Trainees must have successfully completed the Anaesthetic Technology I workbook as endorsed by the Auckland University of Technology and have successfully completed Anaesthesia I, before being eligible to progress to level 2 supervision.</p> <p>The training hospital must have validated documentation to support a trainee's progression to Level 2 supervision.</p>
<b>Level Two</b> <b>Indirect Supervision</b> <b>by a Registered</b> <b>Anaesthetic</b> <b>Technician</b>	<p>A registered anaesthetic technician must be available to give immediate practical assistance/advice at any time to trainees who are in an anaesthetising location.</p> <p>The registered anaesthetic technician must be conversant with the supervisee's caseload and experience.</p> <p>The ratio of supervisees to registered anaesthetic technician must not exceed 2:1 on each duty.</p> <p>The hospital must have validated documentation to support a supervisee's progression to Level 3 supervision.</p>
<b>Level Three</b> <b>Supervision</b>	<p>The supervising anaesthetic technician is available in the hospital but is not exclusively available for a specific supervisee.</p>



## TRAINEE ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIANS

The Council reviewed the requirements for supervision of Trainee AT's enrolled in the Diploma of Applied Science (Anaesthetic Technology) qualification, and Registered Nurses enrolled in the Graduate Certificate of Anaesthetic Technology qualification whilst employed in a Medical Sciences Council accredited training hospitals.

### REGULATION REQUIREMENTS

As Trainee AT's are not registered it is important their care of patients is at all times supervised by a registered AT. Training hospitals have a duty to both the public and the trainees and their supervisors that they have a robust system in place to ensure the safety of the public. Trainees must never be put in a situation that compromises patient or trainee well-being.

The differing requirements for Registered Nurses enrolled in the Graduate Certificate of Anaesthetic Technology, reflects the previous experience of these nurses in a similar environment and that this group hold registration with the Nursing Council and are under the legal obligations required of a registered health practitioner.

*Transition from Level 1 to Level 2 supervision for Trainee Anaesthetic Technicians enrolled in the Diploma of Applied Science (Anaesthetic Technology)*

### MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

For Trainees who have completed the Auckland University of Technology paper Anaesthesia 1:

- ✓ A pass in the Anaesthesia 1 paper
- ✓ A minimum clinical training time of 460 hours
- ✓ An "in house" assessment of competency which must include a self-assessment and competent demonstration of the NZATS Level Two and Level Three anaesthetic machine check
- ✓ Verbal and written feedback is provided to the Trainee.



For Trainees who have NOT completed the Auckland University of Technology paper Anaesthesia 1:

- ✓ A minimum training time of 920 hours
- ✓ An “in house” assessment of competency which must include a self-assessment and competent demonstration of the NZATS Level Two and Level Three anaesthetic machine check.
- ✓ Verbal and written feedback is provided to the Trainee.

There must be evidence that the trainee has received formal lectures on

- ★ Infection Prevention and Control
- ★ Health and Safety in the work place
- ★ Principles of anaesthesia (basic drug and equipment information)

*Transition from level 1 to 2 supervision for Registered Nurses enrolled in the Graduate Certificate of Anaesthesia Technology who has relevant previous clinical experience (a minimum of 1 year’s recent experience in intensive care, PACU, operating rooms or surgical nursing)*

- ✓ Determining the transition through all levels of supervision is the responsibility of the accredited training hospital. There is no minimum time period at which the R/N (“trainee AT”) may progress to a higher supervision level.
- ✓ An “in house” assessment of competency which must include a self-assessment and competent demonstration of the NZATS Level Two and Level Three anaesthetic machine check.
- ✓ There must be verbal and written feedback provided to the trainee





## *REQUIREMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRACTITIONER PROVIDING SUPERVISION*

### **TO BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE ON A SUPERVISORY ROLE, AS THE SUPERVISOR YOU MUST:**

- ✓ Hold a current practising certificate that does not contain any conditions on your practice.
- ✓ Be enrolled in a Council-approved CPD programme.
- ✓ Have at least two-years post-qualification clinical experience.
- ✓ Have a sound understanding of the competencies required for registration in anaesthetic technology scope of practice, as prescribed by the Council.
- ✓ Declare any conflict of interest.

### **AS THE SUPERVISOR YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SUPERVISED PRACTITIONER INCLUDES:**

- ✓ Maintaining supervision, assessment integrity, and avoid or declare any conflicts of interest.
- ✓ Ensuring the health and safety of patients are paramount.
- ✓ Maintaining a professional relationship with the supervised practitioner.
- ✓ Being contactable and readily available to the supervised practitioner.
- ✓ Establishing regular meetings with the supervised practitioner, and conducting regular performance reviews with timely remediation of any identified problems.
- ✓ Taking appropriate steps to ensure the practitioner is practising safely.
- ✓ Observing the supervised practitioner, conducting case reviews and providing constructive feedback.
- ✓ Taking responsibility for your own, and the supervised practitioner's practice.

### **AS THE PRACTITIONER PROVIDING SUPERVISION, YOU MUST NOTIFY THE COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY IF:**

- ✓ The relationship with the supervised practitioner breaks down.
- ✓ There are concerns regarding the conduct or fitness to practise of the supervised practitioner.
- ✓ The supervised practitioner is not complying with the conditions or undertakings as set by the Council.
- ✓ If the supervised practitioner leaves employment.



## *REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRACTITIONER PRACTISING UNDER SUPERVISION*

**AS A PRACTITIONER WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- ✓ Maintaining a professional relationship with your supervisor.
- ✓ Being prepared for meetings with your supervisor.
- ✓ Adapting your practice to address the remediation of identified areas for any improvements that may arise.
- ✓ Recognising your professional limits, and practising within those professional limits.
- ✓ Immediately advising your supervisor of any issues and all clinical incidents.

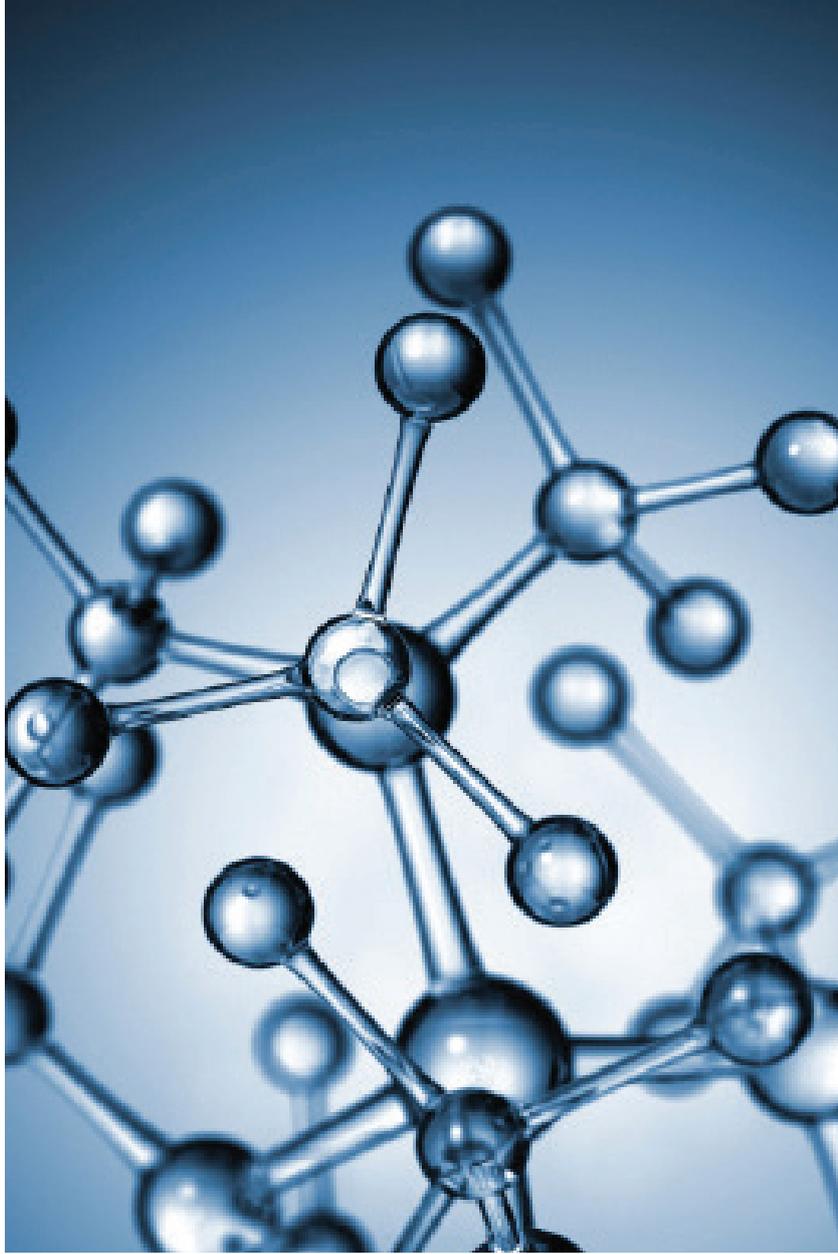
### *COMPETENCY SIGN-OFF*

#### **PRACTITIONERS PRACTISING UNDER SUPERVISION:**

At the end of your supervision period your supervisor is required to submit a certificate of competence and experience.

Once this has been received and approved your registration can be converted to full registration, and your APC re-issued at no extra cost.





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