



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES:

Review of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Standards for Anaesthetic Technicians

In November 2018 the Medical Sciences Council issued a consultation document proposing a number of changes to the CPD standards for anaesthetic technicians

This report summarises the consultation feedback received by the Council and their subsequent decisions as to the revised CPD standards for anaesthetic technicians

APRIL 2019

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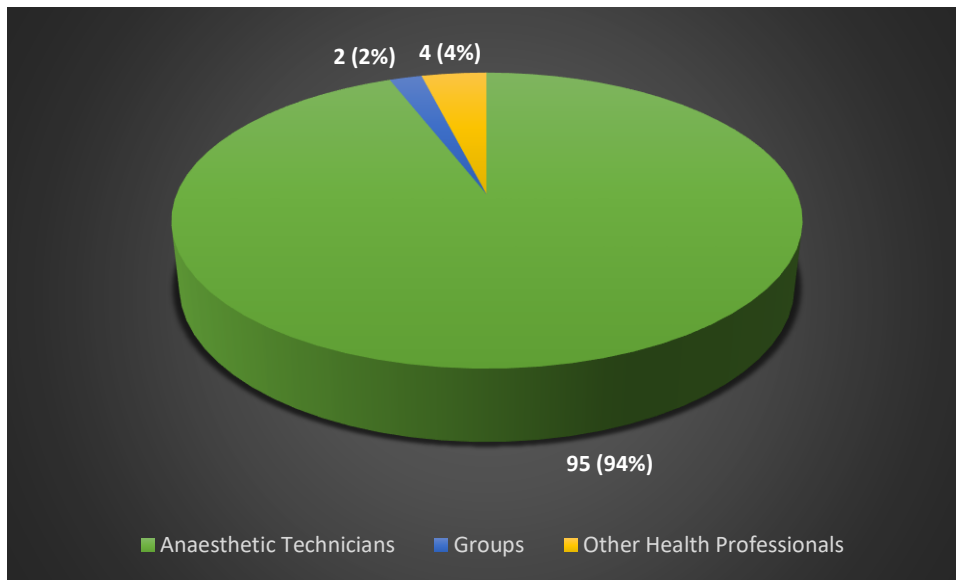
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Introduction

The Medical Sciences Council would like to take this opportunity to extend its thanks and appreciation to those individuals and groups who provided feedback on its recent (November 2018) consultation document that set out a number of proposals in respect of the standards for continuing professional development (CPD) for anaesthetic technicians.

Consultation Response Rate

Consultation respondents were asked to provide their feedback via an online questionnaire. Responses were received from:



An Overview of the Consultation Feedback

Question	Response
<p>1. Do you support the proposal to allow anaesthetic technicians to either self-manage their CPD or through enrolment with a Council-approved CPD provider?</p>	<p>Of the 99 respondents who answered this question, 90% agreed with the proposal</p>
<p>2. Do you agree with the proposal to move CPD to a 2-year fixed cycle?</p>	<p>98 respondents answered this question, with 68% agreeing with the proposal</p>
<p>3. Do you support the proposal that anaesthetic technicians will need to complete a minimum of 40-hours in each 2-year cycle?</p>	<p>Of the 99 respondents who answered this question, 68% agreed with the proposal</p>
<p>4. Do you support the proposal that anaesthetic technicians will need to complete a minimum of 15-hours CPD in any one year of the 2-year CPD cycle?</p>	<p>Of the 97 respondents who answered this question, 70% agreed with the proposal</p>
<p>5. Do you support the proposal for CPD to be categorised as substantive and general CPD activities?</p>	<p>96 respondents answered this question, with 85% agreeing with the proposal</p>

Council Decision

The Council noted that the majority of respondents were supportive of all five proposals included in the consultation document.

Having given due consideration to all of the consultation feedback, the Council resolved to make the following revisions to the CPD standards for anaesthetic technicians:

CPD can be self-managed or through enrolment with a CPD programme provider

In the future anaesthetic technicians will have two primary methods for managing their CPD:

- They may continue with the status quo of managing their own CPD through self-directed learning and self-management of all their CPD records.
- Alternatively they may choose to enrol in a CPD programme that has been approved by the Council.

Being able to choose how to manage their CPD allows for a more flexible approach thereby better catering for those anaesthetic technicians who prefer a more structured approach to managing their CPD.

CPD to be based on a 2-year cycle

The Medical Sciences Council resolved that CPD for anaesthetic technicians is to be based on a 2-year cycle. The Council will need to amend its CPD standards document to reflect this change.

Minimum amount of CPD hours requirements

The Council resolved that anaesthetic technicians will be required to complete a minimum of 40-hours CPD within each 2-year cycle. Furthermore, there will be a requirement that they complete a minimum of 15-hours CPD within any one year of each 2-year cycle.

CPD activities to be categorised as substantive and general

The Medical Sciences Council resolved that the revised standards for CPD will require the reporting of CPD activities to be classified as *substantive CPD* and *general CPD*.

The Council noted that with the introduction of an option for anaesthetic technicians to enrol in a Council-approved CPD programme, providers of those programmes will be responsible for ensuring the programmes offered to anaesthetic technicians meet the Council's CPD standards. That will include ensuring anaesthetic technicians enrolled in a CPD programme are provided with sufficient information in terms of substantive and general CPD activities (inclusive of examples).

The Council is now in the process of developing a set of standards specifically for providers of CPD programmes and will liaise with providers to advise on the Council's requirements in respect of substantive and general CPD activities. It will ultimately be the responsibility of each approved CPD provider to ensure anaesthetic technicians enrolled in their particular CPD programme are well informed in respect of substantive and general CPD activities.

Timing of the Changes to the CPD Standards

While the Council is yet to confirm the exact date as to when the changes to the CPD standards for anaesthetic technicians will come into effect, it is expected that they will not happen until 2020 at the earliest.

As a next step the Council will develop a set of standards for providers of CPD programmes and meet with prospective providers to discuss and confirm those. Those discussions will include consideration of the amount of time providers will need to develop their programmes so as to meet the Council's CPD standards.

The Council will keep practitioners, employers, and programme providers updated through ongoing newsletters and email alerts.