



**New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians' Society Inc**

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## ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN SCOPE OF PRACTICE

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### Overview

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**Purpose** To establish responsibilities and scope of practice of NZ registered anaesthetic technicians.

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**Scope** Applies to all NZ Registered Anaesthetic Technicians.

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**Associated documents** The table below indicates other documents associated with this policy.

Type	Document Title(s)
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medicines Act – 1981</li><li>• ACC legislation</li><li>• Privacy Act</li><li>• Code of Patients Rights</li></ul>
Board Policies of NZATS-approved training hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Bicultural Policy</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Informed Consent</a></li></ul>
Australia & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guidelines on the Assistant for the Anaesthetist - PS8 <a href="http://www.anzca.edu.au/publications/profdocs/pr ofstandards/ps8_2003.htm">http://www.anzca.edu.au/publications/profdocs/pr ofstandards/ps8_2003.htm</a></li></ul>
New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians Society (NZATS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standards of Practice, 2004. <a href="http://www.nzats.co.nz/pdfdocs/Standards%20of%20Practice.pdf">http://www.nzats.co.nz/pdfdocs/Standards%20of%20Practice.pdf</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Annual practising certificate</a></li></ul>

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### **Introduction**

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Registered anaesthetic technicians utilise technical and clinical judgement to assess health needs and provide patient care and assistance during all aspects of anaesthetic administration. Anaesthetic technicians provide support to the anaesthetist and collaborate and work alongside other health professionals during peri-operative, interventional and investigative procedures. Anaesthetic technicians may be required to provide anaesthetic support in operating theatres, radiology and MRI units, intensive care, labour wards and emergency departments. Anaesthetic technicians provide support for the safe transportation of patients. They work as team members alongside other health workers and provide physical and emotional support to the patient and enhance the safe outcome of anaesthetic procedures. The anaesthetic technician plans and prepares the equipment, monitoring and other requirements specific to each anaesthetic procedure. The technician ensures knowledge on procedural and equipment changes is current. Anaesthetic technicians are committed to quality improvement and provide support and teaching to junior colleagues and other staff as required. Anaesthetic technicians work within the limitation of the scope of practice specified to the area and employing hospital concerned.

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## **ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

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### **Competencies**

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#### **Registered Anaesthetic Technician**

The Anaesthetic Technician:

- Provides the highest standard of assistance to the anaesthetist until excused from that duty. Works as directed and unsupervised in areas as required by the clinical director, or delegated authority.\*
- Provides reassurance to the patient and provides care to ensure patient safety during anaesthetic procedures, transfer and positioning.
- Is responsible for, but duties are not limited to, the preparation of the anaesthetic machine, ancillary, monitoring, intravenous administration, warming, emergency and resuscitation equipment and to provide this equipment in a safe, clean and functional state.
- Ensures ready availability of appropriate pharmacological agents, intravenous fluids including blood and blood products.
- Ensures documentation is correct and available when required.
- Ensures correct cleaning, decontamination, sterilisation and disposal of anaesthetic equipment. Maintains stocks to the required standards of the departments.
- Ensures that practice is evidence-based and current in procedural, clinical and technical initiatives.
- Participates in quality initiatives and fully participates in QA improvements.
- Shares knowledge with, and provides supervision for junior colleagues and trainees.
- Carries out specialized procedures, relevant to level of experience, following in-service, training and assessment. Initiates revalidation when appropriate.



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## **ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

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### **Expectations & Accountability**

#### **Expectations**

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Anaesthetic Technicians are expected to:

- Be registered with the registering body as a qualified anaesthetic technician – the New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians' Society Inc.
  - Practice in accordance with legislative requirements.
  - Act ethically.
  - Respect the rights of patients and clients.
  - Work to maintain public trust and confidence.
  - Practice within the limitation of the qualification under which the technician has been registered.
  - Be aware of cultural rights and the requirement for informed consent related to patients and family/whanau.
  - To present a professional manner and work ethic
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## **ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

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### **Accountability**

Anaesthetic Technicians are to:

- Be responsible to, and accountable to, the anaesthetist for actions, decisions, and practices while carrying out delegated anaesthetic related procedures.
- Only undertake activities in which they are competent and are authorised to do so (as per level of practice).
- Uphold the safety and well being, interests and rights of patients, families and colleagues.
- Be aware of the patient's condition, anticipate needs, detect problems and to take appropriate actions. Respond promptly and appropriately in emergency situations and use associated equipment competently.
- Contribute to the continuity of care through appropriate transfer of responsibility.
- Endeavour to ensure that no actions or omissions are detrimental to the conditions and safety of the patient.
- Take appropriate action where they have a duty of care.
- Practice according to current policies, clinical practices and standards and seek clarification where appropriate.
- Improve and extend their clinical, technical and theoretical knowledge and current practice, and to assist colleagues extend their knowledge, experience and competence.
- Acknowledge any limitation in knowledge or competence and seek assistance.
- Monitor the practice of peers and trainees and delegate appropriately.
- Work in partnership in a cooperative and collaborative manner with the health care team.



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**Cultural Safety and Informed Consent**

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**Cultural Safety**

All turoro/patients and whanau/family have the right:

- To care which is relevant to their culture and sensitive to their differences in need and approach.
  - To attain support from people who understand their needs and can assist them access relevant systems and resources.
  - To the demonstration of respect of cultural values, restrictions, requirements and variations.
  - To have culturally unsafe situations remedied/addressed when they arise.
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**Informed Consent**

Anaesthetic technicians should ensure informed consent has been obtained prior to any medical or surgical treatment, investigative or interventional procedure, where appropriate.

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