

**Anaesthetic Technicians Workplace Assessor Training Course  
2006**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- Q.1 Is there a workbook for Workplace Assessors giving the key points, and standard questions and suggested standard answers?  
A. *A Guide will need to be written for WPAs - as the Technology II manual is undergoing significant changes, this will be a project for 2008*
- Q.2 Is my knowledge base sufficient to be a Workplace Assessor?  
A. *AUT theory papers will be provided to National Assessors, and WPAs will also have access to the Diploma study material that trainees are using.*
- Q.3 What are the time-frames for the workbooks and completion of tasks, especially for Anaesthetic Technology I?  
A. *The suggested programme and time-frames will be posted on the NZATS website by AUT, and also sent to Supervisors of Training and trainees. Both manuals cover the 2 semesters, march to November. If Supervisors of Training contact AUT when new trainees commence, or prior to a trainee commencing their third year of training, the logbooks can be forwarded early.*
- Q.4 What is the expected workload for WPAs? And how many WPAs should there be per trainee?  
A. *The numbers of trainees per WPA are yet to be determined. WPAs should let the Supervisors of Training and the National Assessors know if they are overloaded. WPAs could document the time spent on their trainees. This could also be an issue for clinical supervision. National Assessors will be assigned regional responsibilities according to the number of trainees in the various hospitals.*
- Q.5 How will WPAs maintain and monitor standards?  
A. *National Assessors will monitor standards through “moderation” – attending block course, machine check assessments and marking of manuals*
- Q.6 When will assessments take place? Is there an allocated time?  
A. *The hospital Preceptor/Educator plus the Supervisor of Training will determine when these take place, usually when the trainee is sufficiently experienced.*
- Q.7 Where there are dual roles, are there clear pathways of communication for trainees?  
A. *Any concerns should be conveyed to the Supervisor of Training. A flow-chart is on the NZATS website.*
- Q.8 What will happen about different specialisations in different hospitals?  
A. *The trainee will go to another hospital to be assessed if the task is not available in their own hospital.*
- Q.9 What happens if there is no WPA in a particular hospital?

- A. *One will then need to be appointed, as hospitals without a WPA should not be taking on trainees. As of 2008, all hospitals will have a WPA.*
- Q.10 Where can I find a copy of the Position Descriptions of National Assessors and WPAs?
- A. *They are all posted on the NZATS website.*
- Q.11 Is there any grading on an assessment?
- A. *No, there is only a pass or fail. .*
- Q.12 How much surgical knowledge is required of a trainee?
- A. *This is usually not required for Anaesthetic Technology I. In Anaesthetic Technology II, the WPA can talk to the trainee about risk/hazard points, and critical times in the surgery process.*
- Q.13 Is there sufficient Communication required as part of the curriculum?
- A. *Yes, the teaching of Communication is carried out in conjunction with Anaesthesia I.*
- Q.14 Who is responsible for the different roles?
- A. *The hospitals are responsible for the teaching role, and AUT is responsible for the assessor role. Both roles are also responsible to NZATS.*