



Addendum to Scope of Practice for those Anaesthetic Technicians involved in Management, Education or Research.

Clinical Practice

Anaesthetic Technicians working in a non-clinical role must provide evidence of their practice on the request of the Regulatory Body.

Anaesthetic technicians must apply to the NZATS Executive for consideration to be approved to work under this Addendum to the Scope of Practice. Once approval has been granted, the anaesthetic technician must then take responsibility for, and provide evidence of initiatives taken to maintain on-going and relevant professional development. Such initiatives will include attendance at meetings and conferences, both local and national.

If an anaesthetic technician is unable to work 8 hours per week in clinical duties (may be averaged over a 12 month period) for a time-span longer than 18 months, then that person is required to complete the 'Return to Work' programme prior to undertaking any clinical duties. (Refer NZATS Regulations).

Management

The Anaesthetic Technician who is unable to attain 8 hours per week working in *Clinical Anaesthesia Practice* because of their Management role must provide Evidence of their Practice as outlined but not limited, to the following duties:

Anaesthetic Management:

- Organisation, leadership and facilitation of the anaesthetic team.
- Planning, management and rostering of the anaesthetic team to ensure the safe delivery of anaesthesia to all patients of the service.
- Assisting in the day to day allocation of staff members in conjunction with the OR Manager considering staff learning needs and departmental requirements.
- Sharing information and knowledge with team members to improve team performance and encouraging team members to optimise their contribution to the unit.
- Demonstrates commitment to open communication.
- Managing the performance of anaesthetic staff including annual performance appraisals and clinical evaluations.
- Facilitating debriefing sessions as required.
- Initiating recruitment of staff and ongoing planning of appropriate staffing levels and skill mix.
- Managing any disciplinary procedures.
- Ensuring staff are able to identify hazards within the clinical area thus minimising harm to the practitioner, patients, colleagues and public.

Departmental Management:

- Ensuring routine maintenance is scheduled and undertaken for all anaesthetic equipment.
- Ensuring repairs are organised and occur within an acceptable timeframe.
- Evaluating the use of consumables with consideration to new or different products.
- Monitoring the costs of anaesthetic equipment and consumables. Documenting and analysing variances/changes in practices.
- Conducting equipment trials, audits and assessments and advising on selection of new equipment.
- Participating in budget setting, monitoring and evaluation.
- Planning and prioritises capital equipment requirements.
- Selecting new capital equipment and completes required documentation.
- Maintaining asset register for all anaesthetic equipment.
- Monitoring pharmacological departmental usage.

Organisational Support for the Anaesthetic Technician Service and the OR Team:

- Contributing to OR management and team meetings.
- Representing the OR team on hospital committees pertinent to anaesthesia.
- Assisting in the planning for the future of the anaesthetic service. Identifying and communicating goals and direction of the anaesthetic service.
- Providing information and advice to departments.
- Building rapport by networking and encouraging interdepartmental communication.

Quality Assurance Initiatives:

- Leading the process for planning, implementing, updating and reviewing anaesthetic policies and standards of practice.
- Ensuring Quality Assurance programmes are current and provide evidence of effective and efficient process improvement.

Educational

The Anaesthetic Technician who is unable to attain 8 hours per week working in *Clinical Anaesthesia Practice* because of their Educational role must provide Evidence of their Practice as outlined but not limited to, the following duties:

- Delivering the recommended clinical and theoretical learning programmes for trainee anaesthetic technicians as outlined by New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians' Society Inc. (NZATS) and the Auckland University of Technology (AUT).
- Ensuring educational programmes promote and maintain clinical excellence and professional competence.
- The structured orientation programme is developed and regularly updated for newly employed qualified anaesthetic technicians, trainee anaesthetic technicians and OR nurses.
- The orientation programmes are coordinated to ensure suitable and timely clinical placements.

- Trainees are provided with excellent clinical training and mentoring. Processes are in place to assess levels of competence to practice. All documentation pertaining to training is completed and is current.
- Lectures, tutorials, assessments and coaching are scheduled to meet the trainees' needs and the training requirements of NZATS.
- Quality assurance processes, including review and update, are in place for all educational programmes.
- Facilities and support is provided for work place assessors (WPA). Specific learning needs for the WPAs are identified and provided.
- A learning needs analysis of staff in the anaesthetic team is undertaken.
- Learning opportunities, both clinical and theoretical, are sourced and facilitated for qualified anaesthetic technicians.
- Trainees and qualified anaesthetic technicians have access to learning resources such as reference books, journals and the internet.
- The NZATS and the AUT are both actively supported in the development, review and implementation of educational programmes.
- Ongoing education in Anaesthesia for all OR staff is provided.
- Educational and clinical advice to other service areas provided when required.
- Orientation in, and familiarisation of anaesthetics for nursing and other health industry students is coordinated.

Research

The Anaesthetic Technician who is unable to attain 8 hours per week working in *Clinical Anaesthesia Practice* because of their Research role must provide Evidence of their Practice in publication of any of the following research topics or on other subjects which are deemed by the NZATS Executive to be beneficial to the development and status of the profession.

- Current requirements and future developments of anaesthetic technicians' role are identified and analysed.
- Future service needs identified. Analysis of technician numbers to meet service requirements.
- Workforce make-up: sex, age, ethnicity, educational and qualification status and other relevant factors summarised and analysed.
- Significant incidents and the impact of these incidents and environmental factors directly relating to technicians identified and analysed.
- Stress factors relating to specifically to anaesthetic technicians are identified and analysed.
- Future educational developments sourced and outlined.
- Opportunities to cross-qualify into other health sectors and relevant pathways identified.
- Alternate pathways to extend the role within the health industry. Benefits analysis.
- Factors within the wider health sector which does, or has the potential to impact on the role of the anaesthetic technician.
- Industrial issues relating to working conditions, fair remuneration and skill mix.