



New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians' Society

Trainee Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice

Overview

Purpose: To establish responsibilities and scope of practice of Trainee Anaesthetic Technicians employed by NZATS approved training hospitals.

Scope: Applies to all trainee Anaesthetic Technicians.

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

Type	DocumentTitle(s)
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicines Act – 1981• ACC legislation• Privacy Act• Code of Patients' Rights
Board Policies of NZATS approved training hospitals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bi-culturalPolicy• InformedConsent
Australia&New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA)	Guidelines on the Assistant for the PS8 http://www.anzca.edu.au/publications/profdocs/profstandards/ps8_2003.htm
New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians Society (NZATS)	Training Regulations http://www.nzats.co.nz/Education.htm Standards of Practice, 2004. http://www.nzats.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/Professional-Standard-of-Practise.21.pdf

Introduction

This outlines the scope of practice for Trainee Anaesthetic Technicians (see New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians' Society Training Regulations).

Trainee Anaesthetic Technicians learn, under supervision, the clinical and technical skills to provide patient care and assistance during the administration of anaesthesia and during anaesthetic procedures. Under supervision, Trainee Technicians provide support, relevant to their level of training, to the Anaesthetist and collaborate with health professionals within the peri-operative, interventional, investigative and other clinical areas. Under supervision, they provide support for the safe transportation of patients. Trainee Anaesthetic Technicians learn to work as team members alongside other health workers. They learn to provide physical and emotional support to the patient to enhance the safe outcome of anaesthetic procedures. Under supervision, the Trainee plans and prepares the equipment, monitoring and other requirements specific to each anaesthetic procedure. The Trainee gains knowledge on procedural and equipment changes. The Trainee learns and understands the significance of commitment to quality improvement. Trainee Anaesthetic Technicians must work within the limitations of their scope of practice.

Competencies

The Trainee Anaesthetic Technician:

- Reports daily to the daily Anaesthetic Coordinator or the Charge Anaesthetic Technician of the operating unit where currently allocated.
- Undertakes activities in which the trainee is competent and is authorised to do so (as per level of training).
- Carries out the following tasks as outlined, in a supervised capacity under the direction of a registered qualified Anaesthetic Technician:
 - Preparation of the anaesthetic machine, ancillary, monitoring, intravenous administration, warming, emergency and resuscitation equipment and provides 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.
 - Provides reassurance to the patient and provides care to ensure patient safety during anaesthetic procedures, transfer and positioning.
 - Provides the highest standard of assistance to the Anaesthetist until excused from that duty.
 - Ensures correct cleaning, decontamination, sterilization and disposal of equipment. Maintain stocks to the required standards of the departments.
 - Actively seeks support when unsure of any situation.

- Is aware of, and adheres to the clinical practice and policy documentation of the department where currently based.
- Participates in audits and assessments as outlined by the employing hospital's Anaesthetic Technician training programme.

Expectations and Accountability

Expectations

Trainee Anaesthetic Technicians are expected to:

- Be a member of the professional organisation, such as The New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians' Society Inc. (NZATS)
- 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 limitations of the New Zealand Technicians' Society Inc. under which the trainee is a member.
- Be aware of cultural rights and the requirement for informed consent related to patients and family/whanau.
- To present in a professional manner and work ethic

Accountability

Be responsible to, and accountable to, the Anaesthetist for actions, decisions and, practices while carrying out delegated anaesthetic related procedures.

Be responsible to, and accountable to, the Charge Anaesthetic Technician, or appointee, under whose supervision the trainee is working.

Only undertake activities that they are competent with and are authorised to do so (as per their level of training).

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 take appropriate actions. Respond promptly and appropriately in emergency situations and use associated equipment.

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.

Work in partnership in a cooperative and collaborative manner with the health care team.

Participate in the employing hospital's CPD programmes.

Complete the required theoretical learning programmes to attain the Diploma of Applied Science (Anaesthetic Technology).

Participate in departmental in-service programmes, study days and actively pursue learning opportunities.

Meet the established professional, clinical, technical and theoretical criteria of the training programme.

Complete the Anaesthetic Technician Final/Exit examination.

Cultural Safety and Informed Consent

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.

Informed Consent

Trainee Anaesthetic Technicians must be aware that all tuoro/patients or legal guardians have the right to informed consent prior to any medical or surgical treatment, interventional or investigational procedure and advise appropriate staff of concerns.

