

Notice of Scope of Practice and Prescribed Qualifications for the Practise of Anaesthetic Technology in Aotearoa | New Zealand

Commencement

This notice is given pursuant to sections 14 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 and comes into effect on xxxx 2024. On that date, it replaces the previous notice (published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, [xxxx](#)) issued by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand | Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora o Aotearoa (“Council”) regarding the profession of Anaesthetic Technology.

Introduction

Under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Council is required to define the practice of Anaesthetic Technology in Aotearoa | New Zealand. Anaesthetic Technicians seeking to practice in Aotearoa | New Zealand must be registered with the Council and hold a current practising certificate as required by the Act.

The Profession of Anaesthetic Technology

Anaesthetic technology is the provision of perioperative technical management and patient care, both in the perioperative environment and in related areas.

Anaesthetic Technician scope of practice:

1. Anaesthetic technicians use their clinical knowledge, skills, and judgement to perform a variety of functions to support the provision of high quality and safe perioperative care in accredited health care facilities. Anaesthetic technicians are patient focussed, and assess health needs and provide patient care in collaboration with other health professionals across the perioperative environment, including pre- and post-anaesthesia care; intraoperative care and patient monitoring; collection of samples for diagnostic intervention; and contributing to emergency responses.
2. Anaesthetic technicians may use their clinical skills and knowledge to practise in related areas in the healthcare setting, including but not limited to, the post-anaesthetic care unit, circulating and scrub roles, and with appropriate education may include clinical skills such as the insertion of peripheral central catheter lines.
3. Anaesthetic technicians may practise in operating departments, radiology, intensive care, maternity, emergency departments, and any other areas where anaesthesia is administered, emergency management of the airway, haemodynamically unstable patient care is conducted or where suitable credentialing in accordance with the scope of practice occurs. Anaesthetic technicians may provide support for the safe transportation of patients requiring surgery, within hospitals and between hospitals and healthcare settings.

4. The skills and activities of anaesthetic technicians are further described in the Council's Competence Standards for Anaesthetic Technicians in Aotearoa New Zealand, as updated from time to time to reflect current practice.
5. Anaesthetic technicians are individually accountable for ensuring all health services they provide are consistent with their education and skill level and meet the Council's Competence Standards for Anaesthetic Technicians in Aotearoa New Zealand, Cultural Competence [Standards], and Code of Ethical Conduct.
6. Anaesthetic technicians practice in public or private health care settings and may also practise in the health sector outside of direct patient care, for example in management, regulation, quality, safety, or education.

All Anaesthetic Technicians have a responsibility to ensure they **only** practise in those areas where they have demonstrated competency as set out in the current Competence Standards for Anaesthetic Technicians in Aotearoa | New Zealand.

Prescribed Qualifications

For the purpose of registration as an Anaesthetic Technician, an applicant must hold one of the following qualifications:

New Zealand graduates

- a. A Bachelor of Health Science in Perioperative Practice issued by a New Zealand University accredited by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand; or
- b. A graduate certificate in anaesthetic technology issued by a New Zealand University accredited by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand¹ and successful completion of an anaesthetic technician examination which is set by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand; or
- c. A tertiary qualification in anaesthetic technology from a New Zealand University accredited by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand and relevant and specialised anaesthetic technology experience and successful completion of an anaesthetic technician examination set by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand.

Overseas educated practitioners

- a. A qualification assessed by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand as substantially equivalent to a prescribed New Zealand qualification; or
- b. A Bachelor's or Post Graduate degree in a discipline assessed as *relevant* by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand and appropriate relevant clinical experience as determined by the Medical Sciences Council and successful

completion of an examination for anaesthetic technicians set by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand.

Dated at Wellington this xxxx 2024.

CALEB BRIDGEMAN, Registrar, Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand.

Endnotes

- a. 1 Pathways b. and c. are transitional pathways and remain in place until the end of 2024 (unless otherwise notified). This is to recognise these pathways are for people currently enrolled in accredited programmes that will come to an end once the current group of graduates have completed their education.