

Consultation

Supervision requirements for Anaesthetic Technicians (new graduate) and practitioners new or returning to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand
as at July 2024

We invite you to give feedback on the Council's proposed policy for supervision requirements for anaesthetic technicians, new or returning to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The consultation will be open for a period of three weeks from 24 July to 5pm, 14 August 2024.

The current supervision policy is available on the [Council's website](#).

The proposed supervision policy is available to view [here](#).

Providing feedback

We invite you to provide feedback on the proposed supervision policy by completing the [online consultation form](#). If you need help with this please contact us by emailing mscconsultations@medsci.co.nz or phoning 04 801 6250.

[Online consultation response form](#)

The Council will consider all feedback received before making any changes to the supervision policy. We'll then be in touch about the outcome and next steps.

Background

Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora O Aotearoa | The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) is the regulator for Anaesthetic Technicians (ATs) in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Council is responsible for protecting the health and safety of New Zealanders by ensuring practitioners registered in the profession of anaesthetic technology are competent and fit to practise.

In 2023 the Council conducted a review of the scope of practice and other related documents for anaesthetic technicians. In April 2024 the project was paused. Documents relating to the scope of practice, and competence standards will be consulted on in August 2024.

The 2023 consultation identified a need to update the supervision requirements for practitioners who are new or returning to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

2023 Consultation

In the 2023 scope of practice consultation a proposal for a formal period of supervision for those new to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand was strongly supported with 92% in favour (471 responses). Feedback suggested that a supervision period of more than three months would be appropriate, with the ability to vary the supervision requirement based on the individual circumstances of the practitioner.

The current proposed supervision policy adopts the recommendations from the 2023 consultation and details the proposed requirements.

Purpose

The purpose of this consultation is to get your feedback on proposed changes to the Council's proposed policy for supervision requirements for anaesthetic technicians, new or returning to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand, by completing the online consultation form/survey.

What are the proposed changes?

The policy changes generally relate to:

- A standard requirement for supervision, for those new or returning to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Removal of the trainee anaesthetic technician supervision requirements as this is no longer relevant.
- Removal of the levels for supervision.
- A requirement for a minimum number of hours of supervision.
- A change in the way that the supervision requirement is applied.
- Inclusion of information about potential outcomes if the supervision requirements are not met.

Who is expected to be supervised?

The proposed policy would apply to all practitioners who are new to Anaesthetic Technician (AT) practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. This includes new graduates, as well as those beginning practice with an international qualification, and registered to begin practice here.

The requirement will also apply to those who have not practised in Aotearoa New Zealand for more than three years and are wishing to return to practice. A detailed list of who the requirement applies to is available in section four of the current proposed policy.

This requirement is distinct from any personalised supervision conditions put into place by the Council, as a response to specific competence, conduct or fitness to practice concerns.

It is also separate to any workplace orientation programmes that may be in place.

What are the proposed requirements?

Recent and non-recent Aotearoa New Zealand graduates registering for the first time are required to undergo supervision for at least two hours every week for the first six months. This may be extended if required.

Internationally qualified practitioners and those returning to practice must undergo at least one hour of supervision every week for the first six months of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The requirements are consistent with many other professions who require supervision for these groups of practitioners.

Practitioners may make an application to lift the supervision requirement before the end of the required timeframe with the support of their supervisor.

See **Appendix I** of the proposed policy for the Council's expectations for supervision.

How will the supervision requirement be applied?

The Council will apply the requirement as a recertification programme, indicating that it is intended to support the practitioner in their transition to practice in Aotearoa New Zealand, and ensure the safety of the public during this period. This will be known as the 'Supervision into practice in Aotearoa New Zealand' recertification programme.

Who will provide the supervision?

The supervisor must be a New Zealand registered anaesthetic technician with a current practising certificate, in good standing, and have no conditions on their own scope of practice. Supervisors cannot take part in the 'Supervision into practice in Aotearoa New Zealand' recertification programme.

Supervisors must have sufficient experience of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand to be able to act in the role of supervisor.

What happens if it is not completed?

The recertification programme is mandatory. The Council will provide reminders, templates and advice to support completion of the requirements. The proposed policy also outlines the steps the Council can take where the programme has not been completed.

What if I already have a supervision condition on my scope of practice?

There is no change required for those who have an existing supervision condition on their scope of practice.