



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

Consultation

Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice and Competence Standards Review

as at 14 August 2024

We invite you to give feedback on Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora O Aotearoa | The Medical Sciences Council's proposed scope of practice (SOP) document and proposed competence standards for anaesthetic technicians. You can view the proposals [here](#).

The current SOP document is available [here](#) and the current competence standards document is [here](#).

Further information is available below – background, timeline, list of proposed changes – including information about taking part in a Zoom Webinar discussion.

Providing feedback

To provide feedback on the proposals, complete the [online consultation form](#). If you need help with this, please contact us by emailing msscconsultations@medsci.co.nz or phoning 04 801 6250.

This consultation will close at 5pm on 30 September 2024.

[Online consultation response form](#)

The online consultation form is divided into three sections:

1. General information.
2. Feedback on the proposed scope of practice.
3. Feedback on the proposed competence standards.

The Council may publish consultation responses on the website unless you have asked us not to. If you're submitting as an individual, we will automatically remove your personal details and any identifiable information.

The Council will consider all feedback received before making any changes to the scope of practice or competence standards documents. We'll then be in touch about the outcome and next steps.

Background

Scope of Practice review

Anaesthetic Technicians are a crucial part of the health workforce in Aotearoa New Zealand. As registered health professionals under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act), Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora O Aotearoa | The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) must ensure it regularly reviews the scope of practice to ensure the profession's regulation remains fit for purpose, and that practitioners are equipped to respond to an ever-changing healthcare practice environment. The scope of practice defines the areas within which anaesthetic technicians may practise and the type of services that can be provided.

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 as the Ministry of Health highlighted a potential issue with the way the gazette notice was framed. This has now been considered and the proposed gazette notice reframed.

The proposed new scope is about ensuring practice is safe but can be responsive. It is designed to enable flexibility for the workforce and should streamline the ability for practitioners to work across various clinical practice areas.

The proposed scope of practice statement retains the title Anaesthetic Technician. We received some feedback that meant changing the name from Anaesthetic Technician to Perioperative Practitioner would have required a specific order to be made under the Act.

Competence Standards

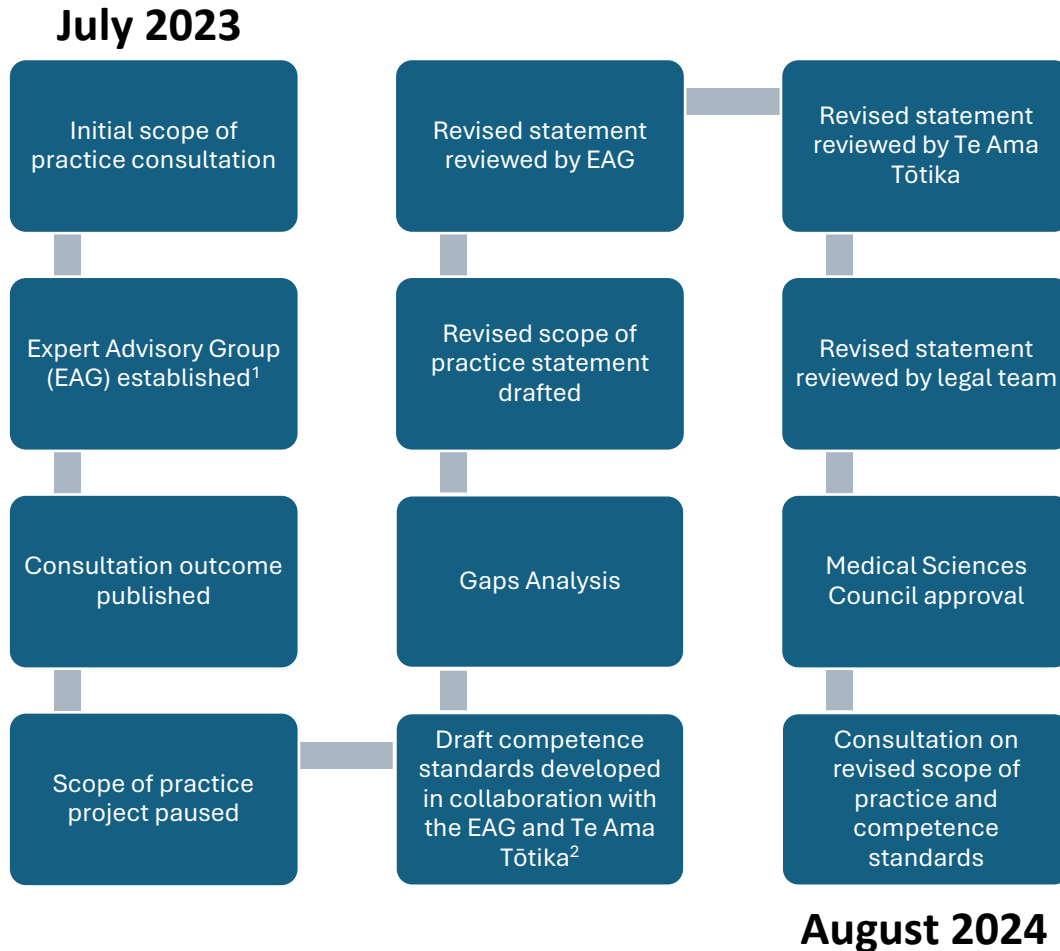
The Council's primary responsibility is to protect the health and safety of the public by ensuring anaesthetic technicians are competent and fit to practise their profession. The scope of practice review has therefore led to a review of the competence standards for anaesthetic technicians.

After an initial consultation to advise on this work, the Council formed an Expert Advisory Group of practitioners from across Aotearoa New Zealand. The purpose of the group was to provide the Council with advice and guidance on the revision of the competence standards.

Representatives of the group included tangata whenua representation, those in practice, those involved in education, and a lay person. Te Ama Tōtika/Māori Practitioner's Advisory Committee also provided the Council with advice and guidance on the revision.

The standards of competence provide a baseline against which practitioners can enter the register. These standards need to be dynamic to reflect evolving changes in professional practice. They have been specifically designed to move from a prescriptive to a more principle-based model - this is more enabling for practitioners' day to day practise.

Timeline of review of Scope of Practice and Competence Standards



¹The Expert Advisory Group was established after responses received to the initial scope of practice consultation. The Council agreed there was a need to seek expert advice from the sector to ensure the gazetted scope is contemporary and ensures the safety of the public.

²Te Ama Tōtika is the Māori Practitioner Advisory Committee for medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology practitioners. The committee was established to provide advice to the Council regarding policy pertaining to the impact on Māori of the practice standards required of medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Purpose

The purpose of this consultation is to get your feedback on proposed changes to the scope of practice and competence standards for anaesthetic technicians, by completing the online consultation form/survey.

What are the proposed changes?

The changes to the scope of practice generally relate to:

- Broadening the scope of practice, and providing flexibility, allowing practitioners to work across the perioperative environment.
- Better reflecting both current practise and future practise.
- Moving from a prescriptive to a more principle-based model.

The changes to the competence standards generally relate to:

- Moving from a prescriptive to a more principle-based model.
- Restructure of the domains.
- Inclusion of cultural safety across all of the domains.
- Providing more flexibility and versatility to be applicable across a variety of practice settings.
- Use of plain language and reformatted for clarity.

Please join the discussion

We're also holding a Zoom webinar so you can ask questions about the proposals.

Before you join the webinar, if you haven't already done so, we encourage you to read the current and proposed documents (refer to the links above).

The webinar will be held on

Tuesday 27 August 2024 at 7 PM (allow about 1hr)

The topic is **Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice and Competence Standards**

To register in advance for this webinar click on the link below:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7wxgZk5hRz6drezSXli6Mg

You must register to join the webinar (you can do this any time, but it must be done in time to take part in the meeting). We encourage you to do this **before** the day. If you register early, you will receive a confirmation email containing details about how to join the webinar.

We understand how busy everyone is – if you can't make it, then think about asking someone to represent you and/or others. And if you want to send us your questions ahead of time, please email them to mscconsultations@medsci.co.nz

We look forward to connecting with you at the webinar.