

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Scope of practice and competence standards

Q: What has changed?

The scope of practice and competence standards have been updated to reflect practice in Aotearoa New Zealand, and to allow practitioners to better meet the needs of the New Zealand population.

The competence standards have been reviewed and updated and can be found [here](#).

Those activities covered in the expanded practice policy and definition are now considered to be part of the scope of practice. Please note, if you currently have an expanded practice activity noted on your practising certificate, this will be removed to reflect the updated scope of practice - rest assured you can continue to practise as you currently are. Please ensure you read the new [notice of scope of practice](#), check out our FAQs, and if needed register for the webinar. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at msc@medsci.co.nz.

Why has the Council made these changes?

Like many health professions, the practice of anaesthetic technology continues to evolve in a way that reflects changes in the New Zealand population, workforce, and health priorities. The scope of practice and competence standards must keep pace with these changes to make sure practitioners are equipped to provide safe care to the public, now and into the future. Review of the scope and competencies are part of a regular review process.

Why does the Council set the scope of practice and standards?

The Council is required to define the scope of practice, and standards of practice for anaesthetic technicians, under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act).

The core elements of the competence standards – that is the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviours a practitioner develops (through education, training, and work experience) – form a framework that describes the competencies and behaviours expected of anaesthetic technicians in their daily practice.

What does this mean for me and my practice?

Practitioners may continue to practice as usual. The scope of practice and competence standards come into effect on 1 April 2025. Most practitioners will notice no change but should review the documents to ensure they are still practising within the scope, and in accordance with the competence standards.

Please note, if you currently have an expanded practice activity noted on your practising certificate, this will be removed to reflect the updated scope of practice - rest assured you can continue to practise as you currently are. Please ensure you read the new notice of scope of practice, check out our FAQs, and if needed register for the webinar. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at msc@medsci.co.nz.

Q: What documents should I follow now?

Continue to follow the 2012 [Notice of Scope of Practice and Prescribed Qualifications for the Practice of Anaesthetic Technology](#) until the new notice comes into effect on 1 April 2025. The Council will remind all practitioners about this change before they come into effect.

Why has the title of Anaesthetic Technician been retained instead of Perioperative Practitioner?

Last year, the Council developed a revised scope of practice statement. As part of the normal processes of review, Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health provided feedback regarding the proposed title change to perioperative practice, and how it was framed. Consequently, the proposed title change was rescinded, and the Council developed a revised scope of practice statement.

The statement advised that the title of Anaesthetic Technician is retained but seeks to ensure the revised statement accurately reflects how practitioners practise in 2025, and ensures the scope is described in a manner that adequately future proofs the profession.

Q: When will this review be finished - are there going to be any other changes?

The Council will review all current policies over the coming months to ensure they are consistent with the Scope and Competence Standards. Any major changes to policy will be consulted on. Reviews of the scope and competence standards are part of the core business of the Council and should occur at regular intervals.

Q: What are the webinars about?

There are two webinars being held – one for managers (12pm-1pm, 30 January) and one for AT practitioners (7-8pm, 4 February). The purpose of the later webinar is to give practitioners an opportunity to discuss with the Council the proposed changes (the AT SOP supervision policy and competence standards). We understand how busy everyone is – if you can't make it, then please think about asking someone to represent you and/or others.

If you want to send us your questions ahead of time –

- for the manager webinar, please email them to msscconsultations@medsci.co.nz before **30 January 2025**.
- for the AT practitioner webinar, please email them to msscconsultations@medsci.co.nz before **4 February 2025**.

The Webinar will be recorded for those who cannot attend the scheduled time.

Before you join the webinar, if you haven't already done so, we encourage you to read the current documents [here](#).

Q: How do I access the webinar?

To register for the managers webinar on Thursday, 30 January, please click [here](#).

To register for the AT practitioner webinar on Tuesday, 4 February, please click [here](#).

Q: Which webinar should I attend?

While the same content will be covered at both webinar our focus will be on the operationalisation of the policy from a management perspective in one and from a practitioner perspective in the other.

Q: How is this webinar different to the 2024 webinar?

These webinars will provide the outcome of the changes that have been made and will discuss the implications for practitioners.

Q: Who did you engage with while undertaking this process?

We conducted two public consultations and directly engaged with a number of groups: which included

- Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauoro
- Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora
- practitioner membership groups (both anaesthetic technicians and other related professions)
- practitioner unions (both anaesthetic technicians and other related professions)
- professional colleges
- Te Ama Tōtika (Māori practitioner advisory group)
- education providers
- employers
- other responsible authorities
- individual anaesthetic technicians and subject matter experts
- we established an expert advisory group.