



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

Policy

Supervision as a Condition for Anaesthetic Technicians

Effective January 2025

Policy Title

Reference Number 2025-Jan-V3-MSC-Supervision (AT)

Scope This policy applies to anaesthetic technicians required to practise under supervision as a condition on practice.

This policy does not apply to Aotearoa | New Zealand New Graduates. That class of practitioners are covered in the New Graduate Recertification (Supervision) Policy 2025.

Associated Policy Documents

Document Title	Reference Number
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Registration Policy	2019-Mar-V2-MSC Registration
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New Graduate Recertification (Supervision) Policy	2025-MSC-AT-Recert(Supervision)
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Competence standards for Anaesthetic Technicians	2025-MSC-AT- Competence Standards
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Code of Ethical Conduct for Medical Laboratory Science and Anaesthetic Technology Practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand	2018-Feb-V1 Code of Ethics
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Cultural Competence: Policy and Guideline	2018-Jun-V1-MSC Cultural Competence
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Revision Schedule

Version Number	Version Date	Approved By	Next Review
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One	August 2017	Medical Sciences Council	2018
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Two	June 2019	Medical Sciences Council	2021
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Three	Jan 2025	Chief Executive	2027
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Contents

Policy Overview.....	3
Supervision: Definition.....	3
Registered Anaesthetic Technician with a Condition on Practice	3
Supervision Overview	4
Levels of Supervision.....	5
Supervision Pre-Requisites and Responsibilities.....	6
Competency Sign-Off: Registered Anaesthetic Technician (with supervised practice condition).....	7

Policy Overview

1. Sections 22 (3), (a) and (b) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 allow the Council to place a condition on a practitioner's scope of practice as a mechanism for confirming they are competent to practise.
2. This document sets out the Council's policy and guidelines for registered anaesthetic technicians (AT) working under supervision to ensure the continued protection of the health and safety of patients.

Supervision: Definition

3. Supervision is a formal process of professional support and teaching to enable the practitioner to build on their knowledge, skills and professional attributes, and to progressively assume responsibility for their own practice.

Registered Anaesthetic Technician with a Condition on Practice

4. In some circumstances the Council may register an anaesthetic technician with a condition that they complete a specified period of supervision.

Supervision Overview

	Definition	Specifications	Responsibilities
Supervision	<p>Level 1</p> <p>The practitioner providing supervision must be in the same room as the anaesthetic technician under supervision.</p> <p>Levels 2 and 3</p> <p>The practitioner providing supervision must be on site and available to give prompt practical assistance and/or advice at any time.</p>	<p>The practitioner works under the supervision of a registered anaesthetic technician who has the expertise and relevant knowledge of anaesthetic technology.</p>	<p>When a condition of supervision is placed on a practitioner's registration, they must provide the Council with the name of the anaesthetic technician who will act as a <i>nominated</i> supervisor.</p> <p>Anaesthetic technicians providing supervision take full accountability for the practice of the practitioner they supervise.</p> <p>The nominated supervisor may delegate their daily oversight of a practitioner to another registered anaesthetic technician with the appropriate expertise and relevant knowledge. However, the nominated supervisor retains overall responsibility.</p>

Levels of Supervision

	Registered Anaesthetic Technician (with a supervised practice condition)	
Definition	Supervisor	Registered Anaesthetic Technician
The degree of supervision provided to the anaesthetic technician can be reduced over time and as they demonstrate competence in particular procedures/tasks	<p>Level 1 Supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The anaesthetic technician providing supervision must be in the same room as the anaesthetic technician under supervision. <p>Level 2 Supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The anaesthetic technician providing supervision must be on-site and within a reasonable distance so as to be able to respond promptly should the anaesthetic technician under supervision need assistance and/or advice. <p>Level 3 Supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervisor is available in the hospital but is not exclusively available for a specific supervisee. 	<p>Level 1 Supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 1 supervision applies when the anaesthetic technician being supervised is performing procedures/tasks for which competence sign-off has not been achieved. <p>Level 2 Supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The anaesthetic technician under supervision has been signed-off as competent in the procedures/tasks they are performing. <p>Level 3 Supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The anaesthetic technician under supervision has been signed-off as competent in a range of procedures/tasks they would be expected to perform as part of their usual routine but still require sign-off across the whole range of competencies as required for their scope of practice.

Supervision Pre-Requisites and Responsibilities

Pre-Requisites for Nominated Supervisors	Responsibilities: Nominated Supervisors and Supervisors Providing Daily Oversight	Responsibilities: Nominated Supervisors	Responsibilities: Anaesthetic Technician Working Under Supervision
Hold a current practising certificate that does not contain any restrictive conditions on their practice	Take responsibility for their own and the supervised practitioner's practice	Maintain supervision and assessment integrity	Maintain a professional relationship with the supervisor
Be actively engaged in a Council-approved CPD programme	Avoid and/or declare any conflicts of interest	Establish regular meetings with the supervised practitioner and conduct regular performance reviews with timely remediation of any identified issues	Be prepared for meetings with supervisor
	Ensure the health and safety of patients is protected through the practice of the supervised practitioner and the range of tasks for which supervision is provided	Notify the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if the relationship with the supervised practitioner breaks down - of any concerns regarding the conduct, or health of the supervised practitioner - if the supervised practitioner is not complying with the conditions or undertakings as set by the Council 	Adapt their practice to address the remediation of identified areas of practice needing improvement
Have a sound understanding of the competencies required for registration in the anaesthetic technician scope of practice	Maintain a professional relationship with the supervised practitioner	Complete all required supervision reports as set by the Council	Recognise professional limits and work within those limits
Declare any conflict of interest prior to undertaking supervisor responsibilities	Be contactable and readily available to the supervised practitioner		Immediately advise supervisor of any issues and all adverse clinical incidents
	Take appropriate steps to ensure the practitioner is practising safely		
	Observe the practitioner, conduct case reviews and provide constructive feedback		

Competency Sign-Off: Registered Anaesthetic Technician (with supervised practice condition)

5. At the end of the supervision period, the nominated supervisor is required to provide the Council with written confirmation that the anaesthetic technician meets the competence standards for anaesthetic technicians. This is inclusive of ethical practice, awareness of limitations on their practice, professional and cultural competence, and a commitment to lifelong learning.