

SPECIFICATION FOR NON-MEDICAL ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIANS TRAINING

1.0 PREAMBLE

This specification describes the educational requirements for trainees wishing to become eligible for registration as Anaesthetic Technicians by the Anaesthetic Technicians Board. This specification is based on the training requirements of the Anaesthetic Technicians Board and the Policy Document (PS 8 / 1998) *The Assistant for the Anaesthetist* of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.

Where this specification states 'trainee', it is referring to an Anaesthetic Technician trainee.

Other terms are defined in the CTA Head Agreement and/or Service Agreement.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

With the continual developments in technology in the operating theatre environment, it is essential that Anaesthetic Technicians have an understanding of the functioning, monitoring, maintenance and safety aspects of the anaesthetic equipment and clinical practice in order to provide skilled assistance for the anaesthetist.

This programme aims to give Anaesthetic Technician trainees a comprehensive theoretical knowledge and practical skill base through a combination of apprenticeship-type, practical clinical training and an academic programme.

2.1 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The learning process should encourage trainees to apply their theoretical knowledge to their daily clinical practice. In order for this to occur, students must have the opportunity to discuss and explore clinical cases from current practice with experienced anaesthetists, registered nurses and technicians.

2.1.1 Clinical Placements

General Requirements

Trainees will be employed in the clinical setting of an operating theatre suite during the programme and will be required to complete a specified number of hours of clinical experience providing skilled clinical assistance for the anaesthetist.

Trainees will be working in an apprenticeship model, which will allow trainees to work with, and learn from, an anaesthetist who is currently employed in a clinical setting.

During the clinical placement trainees will:

- Gain an understanding of the functions and usage of identified anaesthetic equipment.
- Demonstrate the Anaesthetic Technician's role in the operation and maintenance in the identified equipment areas.
- Develop the Anaesthetic Technician's role in the provision of technical assistance to the anaesthetist.
- Gain an understanding of the function and application of appropriate sterilisation techniques and methods of disinfection.
- Gain an understanding of clinical anaesthetic practice, including the function and roles of the all members of the operating theatre team.
- Develop and advance communication skills in their clinical practice, which are appropriate to their patient and clinical team.
- Apply relevant clinical policies, procedures and protocols to their work.
- Gain an understanding and knowledge of, and good practice in, medico-legal and ethical aspects of professional practice and apply it to their daily work.
- Develop clinical practice, which is culturally appropriate.

Specific Requirements

Each trainee will have an assigned clinical supervisor. The assignment of the supervisor is normally for one year but the time may be extended. It is expected that each trainee will have at least two supervisors during their period of training.

During the programme it is the trainees responsibility to keep an up to date record of their clinical experience as documented by the ATB requirements.

All trainees will pass a CPR Basic Life Support course during the programme and maintain currency during their training.

Workplace safety issues are the responsibility of the clinical service provider and will apply to all trainees.

In order to meet the requirements of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists standard (PS 8) *The Assistant to the Anaesthetist* - a third, probationary year of full-time supervised clinical practice *may be* required by the Anaesthetic Technicians Board before the trainee becomes eligible for registration. The length of supervised clinical practice depends on previous health professional qualifications and is outlined in Section 2.3.1. The Clinical Training Agency does not fund the probationary period of supervised clinical practice.

2.1.2 Formal Teaching Programme

A formal academic course will be completed (either at Auckland Institute of Technology (AUT), or at another educational provider) as approved by the Anaesthetic Technicians Board.

General Requirements

The academic programme is conducted over a period of two years full time employment but an additional year of supervised clinical practice may be required before registration by the Anaesthetic Technicians Board. Trainees who have previous health professional training normally require a lesser amount of supervised clinical practice.

Specific Requirements

The following are guidelines for the time required:

- A registered nurse training as an Anaesthetic Technician must complete at least 2,080 hours of clinical practice during the programme
- An enrolled nurse or other health professional must complete at least 4,160 hours of clinical practice.
- Other trainees without previous health professional training must be employed during the programme as an Anaesthetic Technician trainee and complete 6,240 hours of clinical practice before being eligible for registration as an Anaesthetic Technician.

Trainees can undertake the programme on a part-time basis but they must gain the appropriate hours of supervised clinical practice.

2.1.3 Access to Resources

Trainees will be appropriately rostered so that they have adequate time to access:

- Library facilities with relevant current clinical literature and journals.
- Relevant anaesthetic equipment.
- Appropriate clinical experience and supervisor assistance.

2.2 SUPERVISION

Supervision and ongoing assessment of trainees is necessary to ensure the quality of training, educational support and guidance for the learner, progress towards expected outcomes, suitability to continue training and complete the course of training.

2.2.1 Clinical Supervision

The Director or Chairperson of the Department of Anaesthesia will be responsible for ensuring that the clinical supervision of Anaesthetic Technician trainees in the hospital shall be undertaken by designated, experienced supervisors, who are trained in clinical supervision.

The clinical supervisor will:

- Be a vocationally registered anaesthetist
- Provide both clinical and educational supervision for the trainee.
- Ensure that the level of supervision is dependent on the trainee's knowledge and practical skills.
- Ensure that there is regular review of trainee's training objectives, which includes an assessment of progress and skill development.
- Act as a professional role model.
- Organise and administration the training programme.
- Arrange for the selection of trainees.
- Advocate for training and Anaesthetic Technicians (with professional bodies and service providers).
- Accountable for the organisation of the training programme in the hospital (including accreditation).
- Organise the release of trainees to attend formal academic programmes.

2.2.2 Educational supervision

The Director or Chairperson of the Department of Anaesthesia will be responsible for ensuring that the educational supervision of Anaesthetic Technician trainees in the hospital shall be undertaken by designated, experienced supervisors, who are trained in supervision.

The Educational Supervisor will:

- Provide educational guidance and learning support to assist trainees to integrate theory and clinical practice when required.
- Direct and focus learning so trainees develop self directed and lifelong learning skills.
- Arrange coaching for trainees, as necessary, in their preparation for examinations.
- Report as required to the Anaesthetic Technicians Board and to the Clinical Training Agency.

- Liaise with the educational provider on the formal academic programme.

Normal lines of clinical service accountability shall apply to trainees at all times.

2.3 PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION

During the programme the supervisor will assess and document the trainee's clinical knowledge and skills in relationship to the Anaesthetic Technicians Board *Record Book of Practical Instructions and Experience for Anaesthetic Technicians*. During this process it is essential that the clinical supervisor provides timely and effective feedback to the Anaesthetic Technician trainee on their performance and identifies his/her strengths and limitations.

Arrangements shall be made for clinical release from service to attend the formal teaching programme. Work rosters should provide an adequate break before attendance at a formal teaching session so the student can concentrate on the learning objectives.

2.4 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

2.4.1 Trainee outcomes

To become eligible for registration as an Anaesthetic Technician by the Anaesthetic Technicians Board, the trainee must have:

1. Passed a formal academic programme, approved by the ATB.
2. Completed the appropriate number of hours in a supervised clinical setting. The total amount of supervised clinical experience must be undertaken before registration depends on previous health professional qualification. Part of this experience may be gained concurrently with the academic programme.
 - For a registered nurse, a total of 2,080 hours must be spent in supervised clinical practice.
 - For an enrolled nurse or other health professional, 4,160 hours must be spent in supervised clinical practice.
 - For a trainee without a health professional qualification, 6,240 hours must be spent in supervised clinical practice.
3. Successfully completed and passed the Oral and Practical ATB Examinations

4. Satisfactorily completed the *ATB Record Book of Practical Instructions and Experience for Anaesthetic Technicians* which identifies skills and knowledge gained in the practical clinical setting.

2.4.2 Client / Service Outcomes

- Benefits from incorporating previously learned anaesthetic technician knowledge and skills into the theatre environment.
- Increased retention of an appropriately skilled anaesthetic technician workforce.
- Increased flexibility of the anaesthetic technician workforce.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 TRAINEE ELIGIBILITY

In order to be recognised as an anaesthetic technician trainee, a trainee must be:

- Registered as a trainee with the Anaesthetic Technicians Board; and
- Registered with a formal educational provider; and
- Be a New Zealand citizen; or
- Hold a New Zealand residency permit as conferred by the New Zealand Immigration Service.

The eligibility criteria for registration as a trainee with the Anaesthetic Technicians Board are:

- A pass in University Bursary Biology or Biology 3 or Human Anatomy and Physiology 3 from the AIT; or
- A pass in Biophysics 2 or Grade 4 or better in sixth form certificate Physics; and
- Employment as an Anaesthetic Technician trainee during the training period in a hospital-based operating theatre setting, which has been accredited by the ATB.

3.2 PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY

The hospital providing clinical training must be recognised by the Anaesthetic Technicians Board through its Director or Chairperson of Anaesthetics.

4.0 LOCATION AND SETTING

The clinical component will be undertaken at the trainee's current employment setting. Some locations may not provide the full range of supervised clinical experience required by the Anaesthetic Technicians Board and the trainee may have to gain such experience outside their current employment setting. Arrangement of such placements is the responsibility of the Director or Chairperson of the Department of Anaesthetics of the trainee's current employment setting.

The theoretical component will be undertaken by the Auckland Institute of Technology or other educational provider approved by the ATB. Trainees will be required to travel to attend nationally organised block courses at locations arranged by the educational provider.

Any secondment of a trainee to another location for further training experience must comply with Part 9 of the CTA Head Agreement.

5.0 ASSOCIATED LINKAGES

Links will be established with:

- Anaesthetic Technicians Board
- Educational providers such as Auckland University of Technology
- Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
- New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists
- New Zealand Society of Anaesthetic Technicians
- Peri-operative Nursing Association of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation
- Patient Advocates for Code of Health and Disability Services Consumer Rights and Privacy issues.

6.0 PURCHASE AND REPORTING UNIT

6.1 PURCHASE UNIT

An eligible Anaesthetic Technician trainee who is currently working in hospital operating facilities, funded by the Health Funding Authority. Part-time trainees will be funded on a pro rata training unit basis. There are three categories of trainees recognised for funding purposes:

- Registered nurse
- Enrolled nurse or other health professional
- Other trainee without previous health related qualification.

A maximum sum, equivalent to two years full-time funding, will be available for each trainee undertaking the educational programme. The Clinical Training Agency funding is only available to cover the period of academic training and the associated supervised clinical practice. There is no funding available to cover any additional period of supervised clinical practice.

6.2 REPORTING UNIT

Reporting unit see schedule 1 Part C of the CTA Head Agreement

7.0 QUALITY STANDARDS: PROGRAMME SPECIFIC

*This section should be read in conjunction with Schedule 1 Part 3 of the CTA Head Agreement, which specifies **generic** quality standards for all programmes provided under the contract.*

7.1 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT QUALITY STANDARDS

The training programme will be regularly reviewed by the Anaesthetic Technicians Board and the educational provider and evaluated on the content and style of delivery of the training programme.

7.2 EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISION QUALITY STANDARDS

Clinical Supervision will be provided to a standard that ensures:

- Students receive assistance with their learning skills.
- Processes are in place to identify students who require additional support, and appropriate action is taken.

7.3 PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION QUALITY STANDARDS

Programmes will be coordinated to a standard that ensures:

- Reports are provided to the Clinical Training Agency by the due date.
- Records of students' training are kept and are available for inspection.

8.0 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: PROGRAMME SPECIFIC

This section should be read in conjunction with Schedule 1 Part 1 of the CTA Head Agreement, which specifies **generic** reporting standards for all programmes provided under the contract.