



# Position statement on duties of specialist anaesthetists

## 1. Introduction

The duties of specialist anaesthetists are outlined in this document. These duties may include providing high quality and safe patient care both within and outside the operating theatre. Perioperative care, management roles, research, audit and education are all clearly recognised as important responsibilities of specialist anaesthetists.

## 2. Clinical duties

- 2.1 Provision of anaesthesia and perioperative medical services for patients as required.
- 2.2 Clinical management and organisation of pre-anaesthesia assessment clinics and preparation of patients for surgery.
- 2.3 Supervision of anaesthesia trainees and other staff as required.
- 2.4 Supervision of patients in post-anaesthesia care units (PACUs).
- 2.5 Provision of appropriate post operative care with special attention to acute pain.
- 2.6 Supervision of clinical anaesthesia services in the role of the daily duty coordinator.
- 2.7 Management of the anaesthesia component of the day surgery unit in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team.
- 2.8 Organisation and clinical management of acute pain services and participation in pain medicine units where applicable.
- 2.9 Provision of acute resuscitation services for all emergencies, including retrieval services.
- 2.10 Management of patients in the intensive care unit, particularly when there is no intensive care medicine specialist available.
- 2.11 Supervision and/or management of cardiopulmonary bypass.
- 2.12 Clinical duties in the hyperbaric medicine unit as required.
- 2.13 Management of anaesthesia in remote locations such as emergency departments, medical imaging departments, cardiac and vascular investigatory laboratories and coronary care units where the facilities meet the ANZCA standards for minimum facilities for safe administration of anaesthesia.
- 2.14 Other clinical services as may be necessary and appropriate to the specialty.

### **3. Clinical support duties**

- 3.1 Managerial duties within the hospital including perioperative units, pre-anaesthesia clinics, operating suites and PACUs.
- 3.2 Organisation of and participation in appropriate educational activities for:
  - 3.2.1 Specialist anaesthetists
  - 3.2.2 Anaesthesia trainees.
  - 3.2.3 Intern and resident medical staff.
  - 3.2.4 Medical students.
  - 3.2.5 Trainee and postgraduate nurses.
  - 3.2.6 Anaesthesia nurses and/or technicians.
  - 3.2.7 PACU nurses.
  - 3.2.8 Operating room nurses.
  - 3.2.9 Other health professionals.
  - 3.2.10 Community groups in subjects such as basic life support.
- 3.3 Participation in peer review and quality improvement activities to ensure quality of patient care.
- 3.4 Participation in continuing medical education in compliance with the College's continuing professional development standard.
- 3.5 Contribution to activities of professional associations, hospital committees, and other relevant state, national and international organisations.
- 3.6 Health advocacy, in particular in those areas relating to perioperative safety and quality patient healthcare.
- 3.7 Participation in research and reviews on matters relevant to anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, pain medicine, resuscitation and intensive care. These activities may include assistance to trainees with their scholar role activities.
- 3.8 Participation in programs to safeguard personal wellbeing as well as the wellbeing of colleagues, trainees and related professionals.
- 3.9. Participation in activities promoting the image of the specialty to professional colleagues and to the public.

#### **Related ANZCA documents**

PS04(A) Position statement on the post-anaesthesia care unit

PG07(A) Guideline on pre-anaesthesia consultation and patient preparation

PG09(G) Guideline on sedation and/or analgesia for diagnostic and interventional medical, dental or surgical procedures

PG15(POM) Guideline for the perioperative care of patients selected for day stay procedures

PS26(A) Position statement on informed consent for anaesthesia or sedation

PS53(A) Position statement on the handover responsibilities of the anaesthetist

PS55(A) Position statement on minimum facilities for safe administration of anaesthesia in operating suites and other anaesthetising locations

PG58(A) Guideline on quality assurance and quality improvement in anaesthesia

ANZCA handbook for training 2021

ANZCA handbook for accreditation 2020

ANZCA Handbook for Training and Accreditation in the Affiliated Training Regions

**This document is accompanied by a background paper (PS57(A)BP) which provides more detailed information regarding the rationale and interpretation of the Statement.**

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