

Short title: Anaesthetist duties BP

1. Purpose of review

To clarify the breadth of duties undertaken by specialist anaesthetists.

2. Scope

This professional document applies to all specialist anaesthetists, recognising that the breadth of duties for this group of practitioners is wide and varied, and extends to roles beyond the operating theatre.

3. Background

In April 2012 ANZCA Council established a document development group to explore the potential amalgamation of the professional documents *PS16 Statement on the standards of practice of a specialist anaesthetist* (most recently reviewed in 2008) and *TE06 Guidelines on the duties of an anaesthetist* (interim review in 2010; re-badged as *PS57* in 2012 and *PS57(A)* in 2021). It thus was decided to withdraw *PS16 Statement on the standards of practice of a specialist anaesthetist*.

In 2015, ANZCA council withdrew the *ANZCA Code of Professional Conduct*, recognising that the overarching authorities for this code had become the appropriate regulatory bodies (ie. MBA and MCNZ). In the context of anaesthesia, pain medicine, and perioperative medicine, ANZCA has developed a resource, the *Supporting Professionalism and Performance* guide to provide, by means of clear examples, a framework for understanding professionalism and performance as it applies to the practice of anaesthesia and pain medicine. These examples and principles can also be applied to perioperative medicine.

The 2026 internal review of *PS57 Position statement on duties of specialist anaesthetists* largely reflect changes to the curriculum, clinical practice environment and contemporary expectations. The introduction to the document reflects the growing recognition that the duties of specialist anaesthetists extend beyond the operating theatre, and importantly include roles in perioperative medicine, management, audit, research and education. Expected duties also include collaboration and support of doctors with patient care in other specialties including intensive care medicine and emergency medicine.

Acute pain management is an expected duty of a specialist anaesthetist, while noting that this does not replace specialist pain medicine physicians in assessment, diagnosis, prescribing oversight, interventional pain management, or multidisciplinary pain-service treatment planning where these are indicated, especially for chronic and complex pain conditions.

Clinical support duties have also been expanded or clarified to include leadership and other contemporary expectations. Clinical support duties may form a part of everyday practice in addition to activities which are conducted during dedicated allocated time.

The identifier has been changed from *PS57(A)* to *PS57* in line with revised professional document labelling practice.

Process of document review

The 2026 Internal Review Group comprised:

Dr Michelle Mulligan, Director of Professional Affairs, Professional Documents

Prof David A Scott, Director of Professional Affairs, Professional Documents

Vanessa Hille, Policy Officer, Professional Documents

The 2014 document development group comprised:

Dr Rodney Mitchell (Chair), FANZCA, Councillor

Dr Peter Roessler, FANZCA, Director of Professional Affairs (Professional Documents)

Dr Justin Burke, FANZCA

Dr Alison Corbett, FANZCA

Dr Vaughan Laurenson, FANZCA, Director of Professional Affairs (Deputy Assessor)

Professional documents of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) are intended to apply wherever anaesthesia is administered and perioperative medicine practised within Australia and New Zealand. It is the responsibility of each practitioner to have express regard to the particular circumstances of each case, and the application of these ANZCA documents in each case. It is recognised that there may be exceptional situations (for example, some emergencies) in which the interests of patients override the requirement for compliance with some or all of these ANZCA documents. Each document is prepared in the context of the entire body of the college's professional documents, and should be interpreted in this way.

ANZCA professional documents are reviewed from time to time, and it is the responsibility of each practitioner to ensure that he or she has obtained the current version which is available from the college website (www.anzca.edu.au). The professional documents have been prepared having regard to the information available at the time of their preparation, and practitioners should therefore take into account any information that may have been published or has become available subsequently.

While ANZCA endeavours to ensure that its professional documents are as current as possible at the time of their preparation, it takes no responsibility for matters arising from changed circumstances or information or material which may have become available subsequently.

Promulgated: 2013
Reviewed: 2014
Current document: Sep 2026

© Copyright 2026 – Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. All rights reserved.

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from ANZCA. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, 630 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia. Email: ceo@anzca.edu.au

ANZCA website: www.anzca.edu.au