



CPD handbook appendix 8A

Peer review of practice (anaesthesia practice) - guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the peer review of practice is for a participant to consider their practice and how they may improve in their role as an anaesthetist, with the help of a trusted colleague (who is also a registered specialist anaesthetist). This colleague observes a participant managing a theatre list, and uses a structured form as the basis for a discussion regarding approaches to practice. It is anticipated the peer review will be a mutually beneficial learning experience by considering the advantages and disadvantages of various techniques.

This activity contributes to the completion of one practice evaluation activity, directly relevant to the participant's practice, equivalent to 20 credits, for both the recipient of the review and the reviewer.

Related documentation

- [Peer review of practice observation form](#)
- [Peer review of practice agreement form](#)

Prior to the review

1. The participant invites a trusted colleague (reviewer) who is also a registered specialist anaesthetist, to conduct a peer review of practice and organises a mutually convenient date and time for the colleague to observe them for a minimum of half a day, including the management of a theatre list representative of their everyday practice. It is recommended the participant select a list that includes some challenging cases.
2. The participant completes the relevant peer review of practice agreement form and provides it to the reviewer to sign.
The agreement refers to the responsibilities of the participant and the reviewer and issues regarding liability. The reviewer should complete the remainder of the form, sign and return to the participant.
3. Prior to the review, the participant and reviewer determine the focus areas of the peer review. The observation form includes five categories aligned to the ANZCA and FPM Roles in Practice:
 - Patient management (medical expert).
 - Communication (communicator).
 - Teamwork/collaboration (collaborator).
 - List management (leader and manager).
 - Patient safety (health advocate and professional).

While participants can highlight particular aspects of practice within categories to be the focus, a minimum of one item in each category should be identified and discussed.

Participants should keep in mind the purpose of this activity is professional development and focus areas should be aspects of practice for which feedback would be most valuable. The reviewer may wish to explore other issues that arise during the observation, and is encouraged to make notes accordingly.

4. The participant obtains consent from the patient, and informs the theatre team and other relevant staff that a second anaesthetist will be present for continuing professional development purposes.

The review and feedback

5. The reviewer uses the observation form to document examples of the participant's practice. It is recommended an electronic version be used, as the cells on the form are expandable to incorporate detailed notes.

This activity is not an assessment and therefore does not include a scale to make a judgement on the participant's performance. Each item should be viewed as a prompt for the reviewer to initiate a conversation with the participant about each aspect of practice and their underlying reasoning for the method they have chosen to adopt.

The reviewer may volunteer examples from their own practice and engage the participant in a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each. A discussion of the management of unexpected events or emergencies that may occur in relation to the cases observed, and what the participant may have done in the event of alternate scenarios, may also be useful.

6. During the observation the role of the reviewer is only to observe the participant. They should not intervene, unless requested to do so or in the interest of patient safety.
7. Immediately after the list/observation has finished, the reviewer should take some time to consider their notes on the form and how they will approach the discussion with the participant. The discussion should occur on the same day as the observation period, ideally within an hour of the completion of the review. The participant and reviewer should meet in a private office or room for a minimum of 20-30 minutes.
8. It is suggested that, as a starting point, the reviewer concentrate on positive aspects of the Participant's practice. The Participant could be asked what they thought they did well and any aspects of practice they would improve if they were in the same situation again.

The reviewer should then initiate discussion on other aspects of practice according to notes made on the form. The reviewer may find it helpful to start the discussion with an observed behaviour and then a comment or question to lead the exchange.

The following are **examples** of statements and questions that could be used to facilitate discussion:

"I noticed that you *<insert anaesthetic technique here>*. I wondered what your reasons were for choosing this approach."

"How do you find *<insert device/equipment here>*?"

"The team *<insert statement re communication/collaboration>*. *<Insert statement re elaborating on how this changes when working with different teams>*."

"I noticed you *<insert risk minimisation strategies here>* and this prevented *<insert specifics>*. Have you had a similar case where the outcome was not as favourable?"

"With the last patient I could see that *<insert specifics>*. How would you have managed *<insert alternate scenario>*?"

The ANZCA and FPM Roles in Practice section of the curriculum provides practical guidance on competencies within the various roles of the anaesthetist – medical expert, communicator, collaborator, leader and manager, health advocate and professional. The scholar role is not directly reviewed during this activity. An extract of this section of the curriculum is provided on the College website. The reviewer may find it useful as a reference to refresh on the scope of each role and to give more specific feedback.

9. At the end of the feedback discussion, the reviewer should prompt the Participant to consider two or three elements they might change or improve as a result of reflecting on their practice. Further, the reviewer may ask the Participant what professional development activities they plan to participate in over the next 12 months and potential additional or alternate activities, which coincide with any learning needs highlighted in the peer review.

A registered health practitioner is required to report another registered health practitioner if the first person forms a reasonable belief, in the course of his or her practice, that notifiable conduct has occurred. For more information on what constitutes notifiable conduct, refer to the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#) (AHPRA).

Participants in New Zealand should be aware that under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 it is mandatory for any doctor who has reason to believe a registered doctor is unfit to practice medicine because of a mental or physical condition, to notify the Medical Council of New Zealand. Such conditions include alcohol or drug dependence, other psychiatric disorders, a temporary stress reaction, an infection with a transmissible disease, declining competence due to age-related loss or motor skills or to the early stages of dementia, and certain illnesses and injuries.

Recording this CPD activity

Completion of this activity can be recorded on the CPD portfolio system.

Participants will be asked to enter the following information:

- Start and end date along with total hours.
- A copy of the peer review of practice form used and a completed Peer Review of Practice Agreement form.
- Name and contact details of reviewer.

If a Participant is selected to be involved in the random audit of CPD activities, the Participant must provide evidence of the review. The agreement signed by both parties should be scanned and uploaded to the CPD portfolio system.

The College may contact the reviewer to verify the activity took place.