



AAAHP - Anaesthesia Technician National Scope of Practice (2025):

Purpose:

Anaesthesia Technicians (ATs) provide preoperative technical management and clinical patient care to support safe anaesthesia services in accredited Australian health facilities. According to the Statewide Anaesthesia and Perioperative Care Clinical Network (SWAPNET), the 'scope of practice depends on qualifications, experience, competence, and the ability to practise safely'. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) also defines that 'the practitioners' scope is determined by their education, training, experience, competence, and the capabilities of their workplace'.

This document aims to clearly define the national scope of practice for ATs.

This document is to be applied in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Professional Statement PS08(A): Position Statement on the Assistant for the Anaesthetist, and the national units of competency contained within the HLT57921 Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice. The scope, responsibilities, and activities described herein are underpinned by these professional standards and training requirements and must be interpreted within the context of the qualifications, demonstrated competence, delegated authority, and legislative and organisational frameworks governing anaesthesia practice in Australia.

Scope:

ATs who hold nationally recognised training under the Australian qualification framework or equivalent support the anaesthetic process alongside the Anaesthetist, wherever general, regional, local and sedation anaesthesia is administered by an Anaesthetist. This includes ATs currently undertaking nationally recognised VET training programs.

Individuals who hold the associated qualification or equivalent have been formally assessed and deemed competent in accordance with national standards, having successfully satisfied all Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence requirements for each specified unit of competency. Assessment has been conducted under nationally endorsed assessment conditions, ensuring that graduates possess the foundational knowledge, practical capability, and clinical judgement required to perform these activities within scope, under the direction and delegation of an Anaesthetist, and in accordance with local policies, procedures, and legislative frameworks.

Work as a member of the peri-operative anaesthesia team to prepare the environment for safe induction, maintenance, and emergence of anaesthesia while continually ensuring safe and quality patient care.

Who directly support anaesthetic processes and immediately work together with the Anaesthetist in the provision of all aspects of anaesthesia service and individualised care.



Who work alongside Anaesthetists and other accredited medical officers with direction, working lawfully, ethically, and morally in accordance with workplace policies, procedures, and legislative guidelines.

Those who operate within the scope of practice and standards of conduct specific to the medical/healthcare facility have met the requirement of the employing medical/healthcare facility, and have met the workplace education requirement as per:

[ANZCA PS08\(A\) Position statement on the assistant for the anaesthetist 2025.](#)

Background:

The presence of qualified AT during the stages of anaesthesia is crucial to the delivery of safe, quality, and effective anaesthesia to patients. The practical, theoretical, and professional components of anaesthesia assistance are key responsibilities for ATs

In the role of an AT, there are essential tasks to be conducted in the perioperative environment.

These tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Anaesthetic-related research and continuous professional development.
- Applied science and anaesthetic technology education.
- Advanced patient monitoring and mechanical ventilation assistance.
- Collection of samples for diagnostic investigation eg. ABGs, coagulation tests, PT/IND tests.
- Provision of assistance in accordance with individual state and federal variations and legislative, regulatory and governing levels.
- Professionally conducting work in direct alignment with the specific Anaesthetist requirements and the values, conduct, ethics and duty of care expected of the individual AT in a healthcare setting.
- Documentation – accurate recordings representing and reflecting tasks and actions taken.
- Therapeutics and Medications – [The TGA Poisons Standards.](#)

Scope Requirements for Anaesthesia Technicians:

ATs advocate for the patient throughout the pre-/peri/post anaesthetic phases through completing tasks, the application of evidence-based practice and critical thinking.

They provide care under the direction of " Specialist Anaesthetists, Specialist Intensivists, Rural Generalist who are currently undertaking or have successfully completed the ANZCA Rural Anaesthesia Program, or medical doctors currently training in this field" throughout all phases of anaesthesia utilising the application of evidence-based practices and individual critical thinking.

ATs:

- Utilise technical and clinical judgement to assess peri-operative requirements and apply in practice
- Anticipate and prepare equipment, monitoring, and other specific requirements for each anaesthetic procedure.



- Provide patient care and anaesthesia support during all aspects of anaesthetic administration and anaesthesia-related procedures in accordance with role requirements and Anaesthetist instruction.
- Whilst supporting the Anaesthetist, ATs should be wholly and exclusively responsible to that Anaesthetist.
- Can not independently prescribe or administer agents used for general anaesthesia and/or sedation. Administration of anaesthetic agents can only occur in a supporting role under the direction of a Specialist Anaesthetists, Specialist Intensivists, Rural Generalist who are currently undertaking or have successfully completed the ANZCA Rural Anaesthesia Program, or medical doctors currently training in this field.
- Provide support, assistance and collaboration with Specialist Anaesthetists, Specialist Intensivists, Rural Generalist who are currently undertaking or have successfully completed the ANZCA Rural Anaesthesia Program, or medical doctors currently training in this field, and work productively alongside other health professionals during peri-operative, interventional, and investigative procedures.
- Provide support for the Anaesthetists in operating departments, and other environments including medical imaging units (MRI, Radiology), intensive care, obstetric departments, emergency departments, endoscopy units, ECT units, and any other areas where anaesthesia is administered.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA014 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment](#)
- [HLTANA011 Respond to anaesthesia related emergencies](#)
- [HLTAAP003 Analyse and respond to client health information](#)
- [HLTANA008 Prepare patients for anaesthesia](#)
- Maintain and check all anaesthesia equipment in accordance with policy, company guidelines and in accordance with ANZCA college documents PG31(A), PS55(A), and PG28(A).

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA012 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables](#)
- Provide support for the safe transportation of patients, both within the hospital environment and/or between other hospitals or healthcare facilities.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)



- Undertake higher skill duties, if accredited. Within the scope of the training. Proof of successful completion of an accredited higher skill completion must be verified and retained. (Advanced Skilled Anaesthesia Technician)
- Maintain a safe environment by:
 - Adhering to all safety precautions, including electrical safety precautions.
 - Accurately preparing, setting up and checking anaesthetic and monitoring equipment.
 - Cleaning, preparing, and maintaining anaesthetic equipment.
 - Ensure that all required documentation is accurate and completed in a professional and timely manner.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA012 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables](#)
- [HLTINF006 Apply basic principles and practices of infection prevention and control](#)
- [CHCLEG001 Work legally and ethically](#)
- [HLTWHS003 Maintain work health and safety](#)

With direct reference to [ANZCA PS08: Position statement on the assistant of the anaesthetist 2025](#), ATs should be able to demonstrate performance of the following:

(7.1) Standards:

- Explain and adhere to anaesthesia standards and protocols.
- Apply workplace and occupational health & safety regulations.
- Work as a team member with other health professionals and healthcare workers, including communication skills with graded assertiveness.
- Discuss legal responsibilities including consent, privacy and confidentiality.
- Understand and apply the principles of patient centred care, cultural safety and trauma informed care.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTWHS003 Maintain work health and safety](#)
- [CHCLEG001 Work legally and ethically](#)
- [CHCCOM005 Communicate and work in health or community services](#)
- [CHCDIV001 Work with diverse people](#)
- [CHCDIV002 Promote Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural safety](#)

(7.2) Anaesthesia Equipment:

- Describe and demonstrate the care, use and servicing of all equipment related to the provision of anaesthesia services, particularly those used in their workplace, including:
 - Anaesthesia delivery systems and portable ventilators.



- Monitoring equipment and ultrasound devices.
- Airway devices including video-laryngoscopes and fibre-optic instruments.
- Vascular access device placement and management.
- Infusion pumps and warming devices
- Point-of-care testing eg blood gas analysis, viscoelastography (TEG/Rotem)
- Describe and demonstrate the cleaning and sterilisation of equipment related to the provision of anaesthesia services (consistent with local policies and PG28 Infection prevention and control).
- Describe and demonstrate the various infection prevention and control responsibilities related to staff, patients, and equipment (consistent with local policies and PG28 Infection prevention and control).
- Apply measures to prevent anaesthetic gases and volatile agents entering the environment.
- Apply and support measures to aid economically and environmentally responsible practices.
- Ensure that necessary drugs and equipment (including disposable items) are readily available and sufficiently stocked.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA012 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables](#)
- [HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTWHS003 Maintain work health and safety](#)

(7.3) Safety:

- Apply in practice the national safety standards, regulations and legislations for the following to reduce hazard potential to staff and patients:
 - Electricity
 - Radiation
 - Lasers
 - Gas cylinders and pipelines
 - Volatile agents
 - Transmittable infectious diseases including biological fluid exposure
 - Ensure staff and patient safety when utilising equipment in anaesthetising locations.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTWHS003 Maintain work health and safety](#)
- [HLTANA012 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables](#)
- [HLTANA010 Assist with airway management](#)
- [HLTANA009 Monitor patients during anaesthesia](#)
- [CHCLEG001 Work legally and ethically](#)
- [HLTINF006 Apply basic principles and practices of infection prevention and control](#)



(7.4) Anaesthesia Techniques:

- Discuss and demonstrate anaesthesia techniques involving all areas of perioperative practice in order to support the anaesthetist including:
 - Preparation and participation in surgical safety checklists.
 - Patient preparation and vascular access
 - Placement of regional blocks
 - Monitoring
 - Patient transfer and positioning
 - Induction
 - Maintaining and/or securing the airway
 - Maintenance
 - Emergence
 - Transfer and handover both within the hospital environment (i.e. PACU, ICU) and/or between other hospitals or healthcare facilities

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA008 Prepare patients for anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA010 Assist with airway management](#)
- [HLTANA009 Monitor patients during anaesthesia](#)

(7.4.1) Airway Management:

Under the direction and supervision of the Anaesthetist, ATs:

- Prepare, select, check, position, and troubleshoot airway management equipment in accordance with manufacturer guidance, infection prevention and control principles, and organisational policy.
- Assist with patient positioning, pre-oxygenation, and bag–mask ventilation to support safe airway management during induction, maintenance, and emergence of anaesthesia.
- Assist with the insertion, securing, monitoring, and removal of airway devices, including:
 - Oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal airways
 - Supraglottic airway devices (SADs)
 - Oral, nasal, and endobronchial endotracheal tubes
 - Tracheostomy interfaces where applicable
- Assist with rapid sequence induction, including equipment preparation, application of cricoid pressure when directed, and airway securing as instructed by the Anaesthetist.
- Support predicted difficult airway management, including preparation of advanced airway equipment, confirmation of airway plans and contingencies, and anticipation of Anaesthetist requirements.
- Continuously observe airway patency, ventilation, oxygenation, and equipment function, and promptly report deviations or concerns to the Anaesthetist.
- Assist with airway management during emergence, including suctioning, airway device removal, readiness for re-intubation, and optimisation of oxygenation.



- Respond appropriately to airway-related emergencies (e.g. laryngospasm, bronchospasm, aspiration, hypoxia, “can’t intubate, can’t oxygenate” scenarios) by providing immediate support, equipment, and assistance as directed.
- Perform all airway-related activities within defined role boundaries, under direct supervision, and in compliance with relevant legislation, local policy, clinical governance frameworks, and the AAAHP National Scope of Practice.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA010 Assist with airway management](#)
- [HLTANA008 Prepare patients for anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA011 Respond to anaesthesia related emergencies](#)
- [HLTINF006 Apply basic principles and practices of infection prevention and control](#)

(7.4.2) Sedation:

- Describe the principles of sedation and/or analgesia for diagnostic and interventional medical, dental or surgical treatment as articulated in ANZCA professional document PG09(G) Procedural sedation, including the specific requirements for staffing and patient safety.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA014 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment](#)
- [HLTANA010 Assist with airway management](#)
- [HLTANA011 Respond to anaesthesia related emergencies](#)
- [HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)

(7.4.3) Regional and Local Anaesthesia:

- Describe regional and local anaesthesia, including all commonly used techniques for regional and local blockade, and be able to support the Anaesthetist.
- Discuss the guideline for the management of major regional analgesia as articulated in ANZCA professional document PG03(A) Major regional anaesthesia.
- Recognise complications of regional and local anaesthesia and know the management principles.
- Assist with and remain present for Local Anaesthetic Only cases under the direction and delegation of an Anaesthetist and/or verified medical officer, with responsibilities for preparation, continuous patient monitoring, recognition and escalation of deterioration, and emergency response.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA009 – Monitor patients during anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA010 – Assist with airway management](#)
- [HLTANA011 – Respond to anaesthesia-related emergencies](#)



- [HLTANA013 – Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA014 – Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment](#)

(7.5) Invasive Techniques and Ultrasound:

- Sufficient knowledge to be able to support the Anaesthetist with invasive techniques including insertion of peripheral venous, central venous, and pulmonary artery catheters, and arterial lines and the ongoing management of these.
- Support the Anaesthetist with ultrasound techniques for nerve and vascular location.
- An understanding of the following to help support in the safe patient care:
 - Intercostal tube drainage
 - Endoscopy of the airways
 - Rapid infusion devices

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA010 – Assist with airway management](#)
- [HLTANA011 – Respond to anaesthesia-related emergencies](#)
- [HLTANA013 – Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA014 – Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment](#)

(7.6) Therapeutics:

- Describe and demonstrate the safe storage, disposal, preparation and use of all drugs, fluids and other therapeutic substances administered during anaesthesia.
- Support with preparing drugs, fluids and therapeutic substances as directed by the anaesthetist.
- Support the Anaesthetist with the safe handling of controlled/restricted drugs, including complying with jurisdictional responsibilities.

In accordance with the national units of competency, HLTANA011 Respond to anaesthesia-related emergencies and HLTANA014 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment, ATs are trained and assessed to access, prepare, handle and administer routine and emergency medications under the direct supervision and instruction of an Anaesthetist or medical officer. This includes medication administration during induction, maintenance and emergence of anaesthesia, as well as in the management of perioperative and anaesthesia-related emergencies. Medications may include, but are not limited to, propofol, adrenaline, metaraminol, atropine, amiodarone, suxamethonium, dantrolene, lipid emulsion, crystalloids and colloids, blood products, and other emergency agents, administered strictly as directed and in compliance with organisational policy, clinical governance frameworks, and relevant medicines and poisons legislation.

These competencies permit ATs to administer any medication required within routine or emergency anaesthesia contexts when acting under direct supervision, provided the AT holds the relevant national units of competency or equivalent and the activity is authorised within local policy. This scope extends beyond the operating theatre to any environment where anaesthesia services are delivered, including remote and non-theatre locations.



In addition, ATs may prepare and administer local anaesthetic agents under the direct supervision of an Anaesthetist for the purpose of facilitating regional anaesthesia techniques, in accordance with jurisdictional legislation, organisational credentialing, and established clinical governance requirements.

* ANZCA outlines its support for all anaesthetic assistants to practise safe handling of controlled/restricted drugs as a core competency in document PS08(A)BP. However, this issue falls outside the scope of PS08(A). Therefore, the relevant regulations of each working state or territory regarding drug administration, possession, and disposal should be individually consulted and applied

(7.6.1) Trainee Anaesthetic Technician (undergraduate) and Therapeutics:

Trainee ATs, while enrolled as undergraduates, may be granted limited access to medications in accordance with their level of training, demonstrated competence, and applicable legislative and organisational requirements.

Access to Schedule 4 Restricted (S4R) and Schedule 8 (S8) medications, including activities such as preparation, handling, and administration, is restricted to trainee ATs who have successfully completed the following units of competencies:

- [HLTANA014 – Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment](#)
- [HLTANA011 – Respond to anaesthesia-related emergencies](#)

Upon successful completion of these units, trainee ATs may undertake medication-related activities within the defined scope of practice, under the direction and supervision of an Anaesthetist or authorised medical officer, and in accordance with local policies, procedures, and relevant legislation.

(7.6.2) Exception to Scope of Practice for Trainee ATs:

An exception to the above applies to medication restocking and supply activities only. Upon successful completion of the unit of competency, HLTANA012 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables, trainee ATs may participate in medication restocking and supply activities under appropriate supervision, such as a qualified Anaesthesia Technician or Registered/ Enrolled Nurse

This participation permits trainee ATs to fulfil essential occupational duties, including:

- Restocking and managing medication supplies
- Supporting the Anaesthetist or authorised medical officer with the provision of medications and intravenous fluids
- Assisting with medication and fluid supply involving non-S4R and non-S8 medications

These activities may occur across all phases of anaesthesia and do not extend to the independent preparation or administration of restricted medications.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:



- [HLTANA014 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment](#)
- [HLTANA011 Respond to anaesthesia related emergencies](#)
- [CHCLEG001 Work legally and ethically](#)
- [HLTANA012 Maintain quality and supply of anaesthetic equipment and consumables.](#)

Please see the following links to each state and territory's legislation:

- [Queensland – Medicines and Poisons \(Medicines\) Regulation 2021](#) as outlined in the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Act 2019 and its associated regulations.
- [New South Wales - Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008](#) as outlined in the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2022 and its associated regulations.
- [Victoria – Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulation 2017](#) as outlined in the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 and the associated regulations.
- [Western Australia – Medicines and Poisons Regulation 2016](#) as outlined in the Medicines and Poisons Act 2014 and the associated regulations.
- [Australian Capital Territory- Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008](#) as outlined in the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008 and associated regulations.
- [Northern Territory – Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2014](#) as outlined in the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012, and associated regulations.
- [South Australia – Controlled Substance \(Poisons\) Regulations 2011](#), and as outlined in the Controlled Substances Act 1984, and associated regulations.
- [Tasmania – Poisons Regulation 2018](#), as outlined in the Poisons Act 1981, and associated regulations.

(7.6.3) Management of Misconduct and Misuse of Therapeutic Substances for Anaesthesia Technicians:

This section outlines the defined pathway for the identification, management, escalation, and external reporting of professional misconduct and/or misuse of therapeutic substances involving ATs, to protect patient safety, maintain professional code of conduct standards outlined by Australian Anaesthesia Allied Health Practitioners (AAAHP), and meet organisational and legislative obligations.

Regulatory Status of Anaesthesia Technicians (Conduct and Therapeutics):

ATs are not registered health practitioners under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and are therefore not subject to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS).

Despite this, ATs are recognised health workers operating within regulated clinical environments and remain subject to:

- Employer policies and procedures
- Workplace disciplinary processes



- State and territory legislation governing medicines, poisons, and controlled substances
- External oversight by state and territory health complaints and governance bodies for unregistered health practitioners

Definition of Misconduct and Misuse:

For the purpose of this document, misconduct and/or misuse of therapeutic substances includes, but is not limited to:

- Diversion, theft, or unauthorised possession of medications
- Inappropriate access to, preparation of, administration of, or documentation relating to therapeutic substances
- Use of medications outside delegated authority or scope of practice
- Failure to comply with medication handling, storage, or disposal requirements
- Behaviour suggesting impairment, dependency, or unsafe practice
- Falsification of medication records or controlled drug registers

Immediate Management and Internal Escalation:

Where misconduct or misuse of therapeutic substances is suspected or identified, the following actions must occur without delay:

1. Immediate risk mitigation, including removal of access to medications where required to ensure patient and staff safety
2. Notification to line management and the relevant clinical governance authority within the organisation
3. Preservation of evidence, including medication records, registers, and access logs
4. Documentation of the incident in accordance with organisational incident management systems

Internal management must proceed in line with organisational policies, industrial instruments, and principles of procedural fairness.

External Reporting Obligations:

Where misconduct or misuse of therapeutic substances meets the threshold for external reporting, ATs must be referred to the relevant state or territory oversight body for unregistered health practitioners.

Such referrals are made in lieu of AHPRA notification, recognising the unregistered status of ATs, and are undertaken to ensure independent review, public protection, and appropriate regulatory oversight.

External reporting does not replace internal disciplinary processes and may occur concurrently.

State and Territory Oversight Bodies for Unregistered Health Practitioners:



Reports relating to Anaesthesia Technicians must be directed to the appropriate authority based on the jurisdiction in which the conduct occurred:

- [New South Wales \(NSW\) - Health Care Complaints Commission \(HCCC\)](#)
- [Victoria \(VIC\) - Health Complaints Commissioner \(HCC\)](#)
- [Queensland \(QLD\) - Office of the Health Ombudsman \(OHO\)](#)
- [Western Australia \(WA\) - Health and Disability Services Complaints Office \(HaDSCO\)](#)
- [South Australia \(SA\) - Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner \(HCSCC\)](#)
- [Tasmania \(TAS\) - Health Complaints Commissioner](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory \(ACT\) - ACT Health Services Commissioner](#)
- [Northern Territory \(NT\) - Health and Community Services Complaints Commission \(NT\)](#)
- [Australian Anaesthesia Allied Health Practitioners \(AAAHP\)](#) – *a report must be submitted to the applicable state or territory board prior to notifying AAAHP.*

Interface With Other Authorities:

Where applicable, misconduct involving therapeutic substances may also necessitate notification to:

- Medicines and poisons regulatory authorities
- Law enforcement agencies
- Employer credentialing or accreditation bodies

Such notifications must be undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements and organisational policy.

Governance and Professional Accountability:

ATs are expected to practise in a manner that upholds patient safety, professional integrity, and public trust. Misconduct or misuse of therapeutic substances is treated as a serious breach of professional and organisational standards and may result in:

- Disciplinary action
- Restriction or removal of clinical duties
- Termination of employment
- External investigation and regulatory action

(7.7) Emergency Care:

- Describe and demonstrate competency for the following emergencies:
 - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 - Management of the difficult airway, failed intubation and "can't intubate, can't oxygenate" scenarios
 - Cardiac defibrillation and cardioversion
 - Peri-operative blood management (Massive Blood Transfusion) strategies
 - Anaphylaxis
 - Malignant hyperthermia
 - Local Anaesthetic Toxicity



- Recall the appropriate algorithms for crisis management, and where to find to find specific resources and cognitive aids where available.
- Describe the role of the anaesthetic assistant.
- Know the locations of and be able to provide the necessary equipment.
- Provide proactive support to the Anaesthetist as required and requested.
- Maintain competency in Basic Life Support as a minimum requirement.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA014 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment](#)
- [HLTANA011 Respond to anaesthesia related emergencies](#)
- [HLTANA010 Assist with airway management](#)
- [HLTAID011 Provide First Aid](#)

(7.8) Post-operative Plan:

- Outline post-operative analgesic alternatives and list the equipment that may be required in the operating room and PACU.
- Be aware of local acute pain management policies and where to locate them.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [HLTANA014 Monitor medications in the anaesthetic environment](#)
- [HLTANA013 Assist with clinical procedures used in anaesthesia](#)
- [HLTANA008 Prepare patients for anaesthesia](#)

(7.9) Work Environment:

- Discuss and demonstrate non-technical skills including:
 - Communication
 - Cultural competence
 - Working in a team environment
 - Situational awareness
 - Clinical advocacy
 - Reflective practice
 - Adaptability

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [CHCCOM005 Communicate and work in health or community services](#)
- [CHCDIV001 Work with diverse people](#)
- [CHCDIV002 Promote Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural safety](#)
- [CHCPRP003 Reflect on and improve own professional practice](#)

(7.10) Advanced competencies (Advanced Skilled AT)



- Maintain and upgrade knowledge and skills with regular continuous professional development (CPD) activities, in line with standards from regulatory authorities, relevant to their practice in accordance with ANZCA PS08(A)(8) and the AAAHP requirements. Record Continuous Professional Development. (Appendix 1. Available on the AAAHP website). The minimum required CPD is 30 hours per registration period, as outlined in AAAHP policy.

- Acquire, maintain, and utilise knowledge and skills in accordance with the policies of the employing healthcare facility and the AAAHP's scope of practice, and professional code of standards.

- The recognition of advanced Skilled ATs is acknowledged and should be considered for utilisation at the discretion of the individual healthcare organisations. Skills classified in this category are demonstrated by AU/ NZ Anaesthetic Technicians, Operating Department Practitioners, and ATs who have completed specialised training courses or examination, HLS, or programs. This can include, but are not limited to:
 - Cardiac specialisation
 - Orthopaedic specialisation
 - Paediatric specialisation
 - Peripheral Intravenous Cannulation
 - Cell Salvage
 - Continuous Cardiac Output Monitoring
 - Intra-aortic Balloon Pump Services
 - Obstetric Emergencies
 - Fibreoptic Scopes
 - Remote Site Anaesthesia
 - Active clotting time (ACT) analysis
 - ROTEM - Rotational thromboelastometry
 - Processing, Preparation and Assistance with Transoesophageal Echocardiograms
 - Plegia Services for Perioperative Organ Donation and Transplantation
 - Perioperative Organ Donation Care
 - Trauma Specialisation
 - Neurosurgery & Neurointerventional (NIIS) Specialisation
 - Cardiology Interventional Specialisation (TAVI)
 - Radiology & Radiological Interventional Specialisation
 - Co-ordinational, Educational, and Managerial Roles
 - Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
 - Peripherally Inserted Central Catherisation (PICC) specialisation
 - Advanced Ultrasound Specialisation for Cannulation
 - Simulation Specialisation
 - Pre-Anaesthetic Assessment Clinic Health Assessment and Screening
 - Patient Blood Management Services
 - 12-Lead ECG Health Assessments
 - Pre-Operative / Holding Bay Specialisation
 - Respiratory and Ventilation / ICU Technical Support Specialisation
 - IDC Insertion



- Regional and Pain Management Specialisation
- Psychology Dealing with Children and Their Families

- ATs can provide educational support and mentoring to students, trainee and junior ATs which is a critical component of their tertiary studies and learning experience. Mentor support should be aimed at focusing on linking theoretical knowledge to practical application in line with the requirements of their training program. Student, trainee and junior ATs must adhere to the direction of the scope of practice, their workplace policies & procedures and their training facility's guidelines & requirements. It is recommended that AT Educators hold TAE40122 Certificate IV Training and Assessment or equivalent, based on state or territory vocational education requirements.

- Nationally Accredited Qualifications: The Australian Government - Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is the national body in place to oversee nationally recognised qualifications. The national register of VET contains a list of current nationally accredited qualifications that meet the required standards for VET-accredited courses, in line with the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011. The registry currently lists the following qualifications as nationally recognised qualifications for ATs:
 - Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice – HLT57921
 - Certificate IV in Anaesthetic Technology – HLT42607 or HLT42612
 - Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology – HLT57915 or HLT50602
 - Diploma of Paramedical Science (Anaesthesia) – HLT50607 or HLT50612

- For international qualifications: engagement with the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs - Overseas Qualifications Units (OQU) may be required for a referral of a qualification assessment through the Australian Government's Department of Education – International Education department. Each state and territory have its individual Overseas Qualifications Units so refer to the attached link for further guidance on Qualification recognition:

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/services-and-resources/pages/qualifications-recognition.aspx>

- ATs must demonstrate and maintain essential knowledge and understanding of the required legal and ethical practice. This includes:
 - Legal and ethical considerations (national, state/territory) for ATs working in health
 - How are they applied in organisations
 - How do these impact individual workers
 - The consequences of breaches
 - Children in the workplace
 - Codes of conduct
 - Codes of practice
 - Complaints management
 - Continuing professional education
 - Discrimination
 - Dignity of risk
 - Duty of care



- Human rights (universal declaration of human rights, relationship between human needs and human rights, frameworks, approaches and instruments used in the workplace)
 - Informed consent
 - Mandatory reporting
 - Practice standards
 - Practitioner/client boundaries
 - Privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
 - Policy frameworks
 - Records management
 - Rights and responsibilities of workers, employers and clients
 - Industrial relations legislation relevant to the employment conditions of the role
 - Specific legislation in the area of work – objectives and key components
 - Work role boundaries – responsibilities and limitations
 - Work health and safety
 - Interrelationships, similarities and differences that may exist between legal and ethical frameworks
 - Legal issues in the context of the work role (type of legal issues that arise, ways to respond etc.)
 - Ethical practice in the context of the work role (type of ethical issues that arise, ways to respond etc.)
 - Workplace policies, procedures and protocols (how they are/should be developed, processes for review, including consultation and mechanisms for input)
- Keeping up to date on state, territory, and federal legislation, regulatory and codes of practice amendments, as well as, organisation policies, procedures and protocol changes, is also essential to the role of ATs to ensure best and safe practice is being adhered to.

The scope outlined above is supported by the following nationally endorsed units of competency from the Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice:

- [CHCLEG001 Work legally and ethically](#)
- [CHCDIV002 Promote Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural safety](#)
- [CHCCOM005 Communicate and work in health or community services](#)
- [HLTWHS003 Maintain work health and safety](#)
- [HLTWHS006 Manage personal stressors in the work environment](#)



Relevant documents:

[ANZCA PS08\(A\) – position statement on the assistant of the anaesthetist 2025](#)

[PS08BP Position statement on the assistant for the anaesthetist Background Paper 2025](#)

[ANZCA PG31\(A\) – Guideline on checking anaesthesia delivery systems](#)

[ANZCA PG03\(A\) – Guidelines for the management of major regional anaesthesia](#)

[ANZCA PS04\(A\) – Position statement on the post-anaesthesia care unit](#)

[ANZCA PS59 \(A\) Position statement on roles in anaesthesia and perioperative care](#)

[ANZCA PS55\(A\) – position statement on minimum facilities for safe administration of anaesthesia in operating suites and other anaesthetising locations](#)

[ANZCA PG09\(G\) – Guideline on procedural sedation](#)

[ANZCA PG28\(A\) – Guideline in infection control in anaesthesia](#)

[Statewide Anaesthesia and Perioperative Care Clinical Network \(SWAPNET\) – Position on Anaesthetic Technician Scope of Practice and Delegation](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation -Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation -Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 - National](#)

[AHPRA - National Scheme for each state and territory Health Practitioner National Law](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation -Electrical Safety Act 2002](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation -Electrical Safety Regulation 2013](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Bill1998](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 2018](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4173:2004 – Guide to the safe use of lasers in healthcare](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011](#)

[Federal Register of Legislation - Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2021](#)

[Australian Government - Australian Skills Quality Authority \(ASQA\) – National Register of VET](#)

[Australian Government – National Training Register – HLT57921 Diploma of Anaesthetic Technology and Practice](#)



Appendix 1:



Continuing Professional Development Record

Name: _____

AAAHP Registration no.: _____ Hospital: _____

Date	Title (eg Gas Analyser workshop)	Start Time	Finish Time	Total Hrs	Outcome (eg updated skills/knowledge, new skill learnt)	Co-ordinator's Signature
Total Hours						