

GUIDELINES ON RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ANESTHESIOLOGISTS IN THE POST-OPERATIVE PERIOD

1. Introduction

The anaesthesiologist has a prime responsibility in the management of the patient recovering from anaesthesia during the immediate post-operative period. This period will usually be up until the time when the patient is able to be discharged from the Recovery are.

2. The anaesthesiologist shares responsibility with the surgeon and other consultants to provide formal consultative advice necessary for the post-operative management of the patient in respect to:-

- 2.1 Monitoring (including clinical observations)
- 2.2 Pain relief
- 2.3 Fluid therapy
- 2.4 Respiratory therapy
- 2.5 Adverse effects which may be related to anaesthesia
- 2.6 Perioperative medical problems

It is recognised that the surgeon has the prime responsibility for the overall management of the patient but this may be delegated to a nominated specialist.

3. The anaesthesiologist has a responsibility to ensure that:

- 3.1 Adverse effects which may be related to anaesthesia are recognised, managed appropriately and subjected to quality assurance and peer review process;
- 3.2 When relevant, the patient and/or relatives are aware of the outcome and consequences of anaesthesia.