



Guidelines on Minimum Assistance Required for the Safe Conduct of Anaesthesia

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The presence of a trained assistant for the anaesthesiologist during the conduct of anaesthesia is a major contributory factor to safe patient management.

1.2 The assistant must have undertaken appropriate training in order to provide effective support.

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 These recommendations apply wherever general anaesthesia, regional anaesthesia, and/or monitored anaesthetic care are administered by an anaesthesiologist.

2.2 The assistant may be an assistant specifically employed and trained for the task, or a nurse assistant with appropriate training.

2.3 The assistant

2.3.1 Must be present during preparation for and induction of anaesthesia, until the anaesthesiologist indicates that the assistant is no longer required.

2.3.2 Must be available as required during the maintenance of anaesthesia, and for the monitoring needs of the patient.

2.3.3 Must be present at the conclusion of anaesthesia.

2.3.4 Staff employed for the above task must be adequately trained for their role.

2.3.5 There must be provision for a service to ensure the availability and maintenance in good order of equipment used in accordance with the College Guideline T2 *Recommended Minimum Facilities for Safe Anaesthetic Practice in Operating Suites*.

3. DEPLOYMENT OF ASSISTANTS

3.1 The assistant to the anaesthesiologist is an essential member of the staff establishment in all locations where anaesthesia is administered.

3.2 The deployment of assistants should be specified by management protocols.



3.3 Management must ensure that staff establishments and rostering practices allow the allocation of an assistant to the anaesthesiologist for every case where anaesthesia is administered.

3.4 The number and status of assistants in the staff establishment will be determined by the number and types of procedures undertaken by the anaesthesia service at each facility.

3.5 The duties of the assistants in each location must be specified in an appropriate job description.

3.6 For administrative and educational reasons, where a number of assistants are employed, a nurse or one of their members who is appropriately trained should be designated as the supervisor.

3.7 Whilst assisting the anaesthesiologist, the assistant must be wholly and exclusively responsible to that anaesthesiologist.

4. REFERENCE

- Recommendations on the Assistant for the Anaesthetist. Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. PS8 (2008)