



College of Intensive Care Medicine
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OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING FOR THE ANAESTHESIA TERM

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline the College of Intensive Care Medicine's minimum standards of training under the Anaesthesia term in accordance with Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists' (ANZCA) standards.

SCOPE

This document can be used for College of Intensive Care Medicine's (CICM) trainees undertaking their anaesthesia term during the training program.

INTRODUCTION

General Objectives

Acquires knowledge and skills in those aspects of anaesthesia and peri-operative management that are relevant to the practice of an Intensive Care Specialist including:

- Developing an understanding of the role of the anaesthetist in supporting surgical patients
- Developing skills in the pre-operative assessment and preparation of a range of patients for surgery
- Experiencing the 1:1 management of a patient during surgery and managing physiological perturbations caused by surgery, anaesthetic agents, IPPV and disease states
- Observing and developing an understanding of the effects of different forms of surgery on physiological processes
- Further developing airway skills to provide routine support of the airway and to provide support of the difficult or emergency airway
- Further developing vascular access skills
- Developing anaesthetic crisis management skills
- Developing skills in the management of post-operative pain
- Developing an understanding of the pharmacology of common anaesthetic agents.

CICM trainees must complete at least 6 months as an anaesthetic Registrar within the required 12 months period of training. Further information regarding specific objectives can be obtained from the relevant ANZCA professional documents listed for each section.

2. ROLE OF THE ANAESTHETIST

General Instructional Objective

Understands the responsibilities of the anaesthetist in assessing and preparing the patient for surgery, supporting the patient during surgery and then into the recovery phase.

Required Abilities and Qualities

- Understands the importance of continuity of care.
- Is involved conscientiously in the total care of the patient from initial assessment to detailed hand-over of information and formal passing on of responsibility.

For further information, see ANZCA professional document [PS57 Statement on Duties of Specialist Anaesthetists](#).

3. PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF MAJOR SURGERY AND ANAESTHESIA

General Instructional Objective

Understands the anatomical and physiological implications of major surgical procedures for a broad range of patients particularly as they affect the post-operative course.

Required Abilities and Qualities

- Understands the many facets of the science of safe anaesthetic practice including physiology, clinical measurement, pharmacology and physics and how the anaesthetist uses this science for the care of the surgical patient.
- Understands the effects of surgery, which may include cardiac, thoracic, neurosurgical, major limb and open and laparoscopic abdominal surgery.
- Understands the implications of procedures, which may include pneumonectomy, CABG off and on bypass, AAA repair, ileostomy and urinary diversion.
- Understands and manages the interaction of anaesthesia (general and regional) and IPPV on the surgical patient.
- Understands the effects of different positions, which may include lithotomy, prone, sitting and prolonged Trendelenburg position on the patient.

4. ASSESSMENT AND PREPARATION OF THE PREOPERATIVE PATIENT

General Instructional Objective

- Understands the importance of a detailed pre-operative assessment and how that should be carried out.
- Understands the importance of informed consent. Understands the considerations in optimising patients with a broad range of underlying medical conditions for elective surgery.

Required Abilities and Qualities

- Understands the significance of pre-operative fasting and the implications of a “full stomach”
- Assesses medical co-morbidities comprehensively and efficiently elucidates the salient risks
- Assesses the airway using common scales and guides.
- Uses the ASA classification appropriately.

- Assists in optimising medical conditions, which may include cardiac, renal or liver dysfunction, as well as disturbances caused by conditions for which the surgery is being undertaken, such as thyroid disease, ischaemic bowel or perforated viscus.
- Sets a plan in diabetic patients which provides effective control of the blood glucose level in the peri-operative period

For further information, see ANZCA professional documents:

[PS7 Recommendations on the Pre-Anaesthesia Consultation and Patient Preparation](#) and [PS26 Guidelines on Consent for Anaesthesia or Sedation](#).

5. INTRAOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT INCLUDING THE MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL COMORBIDITIES AND SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS

General Instructional Objective

- Understands the requirements for the safe administration of anaesthesia.
- Understands the anaesthetic management and pathophysiological implications of a broad range of major medical co-morbidities e.g. ischaemic heart disease, valvular heart disease, chronic lung disease, musculoskeletal disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, on the risks and conduct of safe anaesthesia (general and regional) and surgery.

Required Abilities and Qualities

- Effectively assists in maintaining anaesthesia and homeostasis in a broad range of surgical patients, stable and unstable.
- Maintains fluid homeostasis.
- Helps to resuscitate the bleeding patient and corrects haemostatic disorders.
- Manages emergence from anaesthesia, extubation and recovery safely.

For further information, see ANZCA professional document [PS55: Recommendations on Minimum facilities for Safe Anaesthesia Practice in Operative Suites and other Anaesthetising Locations](#).

6. POST-OPERATIVE ANALGESIA

General Instructional Objective

Understands the physiology of pain, and the principles and practice of analgesia.

Required Abilities and Qualities

- Establishes effective analgesia in a broad range of patients with different modalities including balanced and multimodal analgesia.
- Uses a broad range of analgesic agents and delivery routes with the full range of medications and techniques e.g. enteral and parenteral narcotics, NSAIDs and regional techniques.

For further information, see ANZCA professional document [PS41 Guidelines on Acute Pain Management](#)

7. ANAESTHETIC PHARMACOLOGY

General Instructional Objective

Understands the general principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, dosage and toxicity of a range of anaesthetic drugs when given by bolus doses or infusions.

Required Abilities and Qualities

Effectively and safely assists in the use of examples of anaesthetic medications, which may include inhalational anaesthetics, intravenous sedatives, narcotics, non narcotic analgesics, anti-emetics, neuromuscular blocking agents, reversal agents for neuromuscular blockade, local anaesthetics

8. AIRWAY SKILLS

General Instructional Objective

Understands the principles of establishing and securing an airway using a range of techniques appropriate to the particular patient and situation.

Required Abilities and Qualities

- Is adept in bag-and-mask ventilation and the use of nasopharyngeal airway, oral airway and laryngeal mask airways
- Is adept in endotracheal intubation, including knowledge of the complications and steps to minimise these
- Assesses the difficult airway and is familiar with a range of equipment and techniques to access and secure the difficult airway including bronchoscopic intubation.

9. VASCULAR ACCESS

General Instructional Objective

Gains further skills in the safe access of the vascular system for monitoring, sampling and delivery of medications and fluids

Required Abilities and Qualities

Uses sterile and safe techniques in the skilful insertion of a range of catheters in a manner that minimises the risks of complications, via routes that may include peripheral venous, central venous (various sites), pulmonary arterial, arterial (various sites), intraosseous.

10. REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA

General Instructional Objective

Understands the physiology, principles and practice of regional anaesthesia

Required Abilities and Qualities

- Assists in the safe insert of epidural and spinal catheters
- Understands the pharmacology of epidural and spinal analgesia with local anaesthetic and opiate agents
- Assesses level of blockade
- Manages complications of regional anaesthesia

For further information, see ANZCA professional document [PS3: Guidelines for the Management of Major Regional Analgesia](#)

11. SAFE PROVISION AND USE OF UTILITIES (GAS, ELECTRICITY AND SUCTION)

General Instructional Objective

Understands and safely uses electrical equipment, suction systems and equipment for the delivery and use of gases in anaesthesia and intensive care.

For further information, see ANZCA professional document [PS31: Recommendations on Checking Anaesthesia Delivery Systems](#)

12. ANAESTHETIC AND RESUSCITATION EQUIPMENT

General Instructional Objective

- Understands the principles and practices related to the use of equipment during anaesthesia.
- Assists in the checking, setting up and use of a range of common equipment in the Operating Room, which may include the anaesthetic machine, rapid transfusion devices and cell-saver devices.

For further information, see ANZCA professional documents [PS54 Minimum Safety Requirements for Anaesthetic Machines for Clinical Practice](#); and [PS31 Guidelines on Checking Anaesthesia Delivery Systems](#).

13. MONITORING

General Instructional Objective

Understands and utilises safely the principles of measurement of a range of clinical variables important for the support and monitoring of the surgical patient.

Required Abilities and Qualities

- a. Understands the physical laws related to flow, pressure, resistance, concentration and temperature, governing the performance of monitoring equipment including transducers, amplifiers.
- b. Understands the generation and recording of biological potentials.
- c. Understands how random and systematic errors arise and the causes of erroneous readings
- d. Understands the principles of, the indications for, limitations of and relevance to clinical practice of pulse oximetry, non-invasive and invasive pressure monitoring, end tidal CO₂ monitoring, BIS monitoring and the nerve stimulator, temperature monitoring and homeostasis, including the use of cooling and heating devices, and the effects and use of temperature manipulation for organ protection. Uses monitoring modalities effectively. Recognises when a change in a variable is significant, acts appropriately and can identify errors when they occur.

For further information, see ANZCA professional document [PS18: Guidelines on Monitoring During Anaesthesia](#).

14. ANAESTHESIA IN DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENTS (MRI SCANNER, ED ETC)

General Instructional Objective

Understands the equipment and safety considerations related to the delivery of anaesthetics in special environments such as in an MRI scanner, Radiology or Emergency Departments.

Required Abilities and Qualities

Assists in the delivery of anaesthesia in a range of difficult environments.

For further information, see ANZCA professional document [PS55 Recommendations on Minimum facilities for Safe Anaesthesia Practice in Operative Suites and other Anaesthetising Locations](#)

15. SPECIFIC GROUPS OF PATIENTS FOR ANAESTHESIA

General Instructional Objective

Understands the principles and physiological considerations in the delivery of anaesthetics and management of the:

- Obstetric patient and child
- Paediatric patient.

Required Abilities and Qualities

Safely assists in the anaesthetic care of patients who may include obstetric, neonatal and paediatric patients.

For further information, see ANZCA professional document [PS03: Guidelines for the Conduct of Major Regional Analgesia in Obstetrics.](#)

References and sources

- ANZCA [PS57 Statement on Duties of Specialist Anaesthetists.](#)
- ANZCA [PS7 Recommendations on the Pre-Anaesthesia Consultation and Patient Preparation](#)
- ANZCA [PS26 Guidelines on Consent for Anaesthesia or Sedation.](#)
- ANZCA [PS55: Recommendations on Minimum facilities for Safe Anaesthesia Practice in Operative Suites and other Anaesthetising Locations](#)
- ANZCA [PS41 Guidelines on Acute Pain Management](#)
- ANZCA [PS3: Guidelines for the Management of Major Regional Analgesia](#)
- ANZCA [PS31: Recommendations on Checking Anaesthesia Delivery Systems](#)
- ANZCA [PS54 Minimum Safety Requirements for Anaesthetic Machines for Clinical Practice](#)
- ANZCA [PS18: Guidelines on Monitoring During Anaesthesia.](#)
- ANZCA [PS03: Guidelines for the Conduct of Major Regional Analgesia in Obstetrics.](#)

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Further Reading

Not applicable.

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