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ANAESTHETIC RN POLICY PAGE 1 OF 2	Date Issued: Date Last Revised: Next Review Date: Approved By:	07/12 07/14 Policy Committee

Key Words:

Anaesthetic RN

A Registered Nurse employed by Mercy Hospital who fulfils the position of an Anaesthetic nurse, attached to a specialty or specialties eg Cardiac Surgery, Gynaecology or Orthopaedics. In order to demonstrate continued competence in this role, an anaesthetic RN must *consistently* practice as an Anaesthetic Nurse

* *Exclusions* - Anaesthetic RNs do not assist with Paediatric anaesthesia or anaesthesia on patients with known high acuity and complex co morbidities.

Policy Applies to:

Anaesthetic RNs employed by Mercy Hospital.

Rationale:

In the interest of public safety and the minimisation of clinical risk, Mercy Hospital ensures that Anaesthetic RNs have been trained and assessed as competent in the skills and knowledge that are necessary for their role.

Objectives:

- To minimise clinical risk to patients at Mercy Hospital
- To identify issues of competence or the need for further training / education in Anaesthetic RNs employed by Mercy Hospital
- To promote public confidence in the transparency and integrity of processes at Mercy Hospital.

Implementation:

1. Prerequisite Self Directed Learning Package


Anaesthetic RNs at Mercy Hospital all complete a prerequisite ‘Self-Directed’ learning package that involves face to face instruction and readings with marked written tests. Summative assessment comprises an observed Level 2 Anaesthetic machine check to the standard of the ANZCA PS31. Assessment and feedback are provided by the Theatre Educator who oversees this process.

2. Specialty Clinical Practice Assessment

Anaesthetic RNs employed by Mercy Hospital complete a Clinical Practice Assessment in their specialty or specialties. This involves the assessment of 8 core skills with additional skills particular to the specialty.

The 8 core skills assessed are –

- Preparation of the anaesthetic area
- Receiving patients for operative procedures
- Preparation and application of patient monitoring
- Assist with intravenous cannulation
- Assist with invasive monitoring
- Assist with induction and basic airway management

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- Provide intra-operative support
- Immediate postoperative support

The additional skill being –

- Assist with insertion of regional anaesthesia

The additional skills for Cardiac Theatre only are –

- Assist with insertion of Swan Ganz (PA) catheter
- Patient transfer to ICU

The Theatre Educator will complete a written feedback sheet, to be retained by the Anaesthetic RN as evidence of ongoing competence assessment and as part of their portfolio record for Performance Development Review (PDR).

3. *Annual competence check*

Annual competence demonstration involves –

- An observed Level 2 Anaesthetic machine check to the standard of the ANZCA PS31 – performed February each year
- Completion of six written competencies. The competencies are –
 - i. Difficult intubation and rapid sequence induction
 - ii. Awake intubation
 - iii. Paediatric anaesthesia
 - iv. Malignant hyperthermia
 - v. Anaphylaxis
 - vi. Anaesthesia Evacuation

Observation of the machine check and marking of the competencies is completed by the Theatre Educator who oversees this process.

4. *Evidence of ongoing education relevant to the role*

A documented record of the above competence assessment is maintained by the Theatre Educator and is available upon request.

Evaluation:

The record of annual competencies attained will be kept with the Theatre Educator and a copy forwarded to the CNE for the training and competency database.

Associated Documents

External

- Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003)
- Nursing Council of New Zealand (2007) Competencies for Registered Nurses
- Nursing Council of New Zealand (2010) Code of Conduct for nurses
- Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Standard (2003) PS31 - Recommendations on checking anaesthesia delivery systems

Internal

- ‘Delegation of Authorities’ Policy – Hospital Policy and Information Manual
- Nursing Scope of Practice - Nursing Services Policy Manual