



# Health Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activity: Anaesthetists—Maintenance of Professional Standards Program) Notice 2004

Pursuant to section 54 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Minister of Health gives the following notice.

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## Notice

- 1 Title**

This notice is the Health Practitioners (Quality Assurance Activity: Anaesthetists—Maintenance of Professional Standards Program) Notice 2004.
  - 2 Commencement**

This notice comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*.
  - 3 Declaration of protected quality assurance activity**

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists quality assurance activity called the “Maintenance of Professional Standards Program” and described in the Schedule is a protected quality assurance activity.
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**Schedule**  
**Description of Australian and New Zealand College  
of Anaesthetists Maintenance of Professional  
Standards Program**

**1 Interpretation**

In this schedule, **activity** means the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Maintenance of Professional Standards Program.

**2 Objective**

The objective of the activity is to improve the practices and competence of anaesthetists who are participating in the activity by assessing the health services performed by those anaesthetists.

**3 Method**

- (1) The activity is based on information derived from anaesthetists who are participating in the activity.
- (2) The activity involves—
  - (a) the examination of patients' records; and
  - (b) the assessment of particular activities or interventions undertaken by anaesthetists to determine whether the activities or interventions—
    - (i) were appropriate; and
    - (ii) were of an excellent quality; and
    - (iii) gave satisfaction to the patients; and
  - (c) the analysis of the following data on patients:
    - (i) admission and discharge; and
    - (ii) morbidity; and
    - (iii) mortality; and
    - (iv) outcomes of treatment; and
  - (d) the identification and analysis of any process or practice that results in an outcome for patients which may, but need not be, an adverse outcome; and
  - (e) the review and analysis, through peer review, of anaesthetists' medical knowledge, management, and interpersonal relationships; and

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- (f) the making of recommendations on how the anaesthetists who are participating in the activity can improve their performance so as to—
  - (i) improve the quality of care they provide; and
  - (ii) reduce the incidence of adverse outcomes; and
- (g) the facilitation and monitoring of the implementation of any such recommendations.

Dated at Wellington this 4th day of May 2004.

Hon Annette King,  
Minister of Health.

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**Explanatory note**

*This note is not part of the notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.*

This notice, which comes into force on the day after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*, declares the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Maintenance of Professional Standards Program to be a protected quality assurance activity. The effect of this declaration is that, subject to certain exceptions,—

- any information that becomes known solely as a result of the activity is confidential; and
- any documents brought into existence solely for the purposes of the activity are confidential; and
- the persons who engage in the activity in good faith are immune from civil liability.

Under section 54(4) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, this notice remains in force for a period of 5 years after the date on which it is issued, unless it is sooner revoked.

An earlier notice (SR 1998/439) declared the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Maintenance of Professional Standards Programme to be a quality assurance activity under the provisions of the Medical Practitioners Act 1995, which have now been

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Explanatory note

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repealed by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. That notice has expired.

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Issued under the authority of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 13 May 2004.

This notice is administered in the Ministry of Health.

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