



## **Joint Communication: Anaesthetic nursing Medical Sciences Council and Nursing Council of New Zealand**

In 2011 the Medical Sciences Council consulted on the scope of practice, qualifications, and registration process for anaesthetic technicians. The regulation of anaesthetic technicians will commence on 1 April 2012.

Nurses who work in anaesthetic nursing can continue to be registered with the Nursing Council of New Zealand and perform an anaesthetic nursing role. The regulation of anaesthetic technicians does not restrict or change the scope of anaesthetic nursing. Nurses undertaking an anaesthetic nurse role must continue to demonstrate they are competent to practise through training, education, and/or a competence assessment. Nurses who choose not to register as an anaesthetic technician must not use the title "Anaesthetic Technician".

The Perioperative Nurses College of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation has agreed to develop a definition and competencies/skills/standards for anaesthetic nurses. Some nurses may choose to register as an anaesthetic technician; these nurses are required to meet the standards outlined by the Medical Sciences Council. The two Councils will work together to ensure continuing competence requirements for both professions are not onerous for dual registered practitioners. If discipline, health, or competence issues arise for a dual registered nurse, the Councils will share information and work together where possible.

Nurses applying to become anaesthetic technicians may be required to undertake a competence assessment before registration. The details of this have not been determined yet by the Medical Sciences Council but it is anticipated that it would only apply to a small number of applicants and there would be no extra cost to the applicant.

The Medical Sciences Council is considering allowing nurses more time (until 2014) if they wish to register as an anaesthetic technician.