

Functional description of the anesthesia technicians:

Certified anesthesia technicians are integral members of the anesthesia patient care team.

Their role is to assist licensed anesthesia providers in the acquisition, preparation and application of the equipment and supplies required for the administration of anesthesia.

In this role, they contribute to safe efficient and cost-effective anesthesia care.

Anesthesia technicians provide support in anesthesia for routine and complex surgical cases.

They provide this service by preparing and maintaining patient monitoring devices and anesthesia delivery systems before, during and after anesthesia.

Depending on individual expertise and training, the task of the anesthesia technician, include equipment maintenance and servicing such as cleaning, sterilizing, assembling, calibrating and testing, troubleshooting, requisitioning and recording of inspections and maintenance.

They may operate a variety of mechanical, pneumatic and electronic equipment used to monitor, evaluate and manage the patient undergoing anesthesia.

Competencies:

The anesthesia technician demonstrates proficiency in:

- Basic life support
- Purpose, use and care of physiological monitors relating to the administration of anesthesia
- Ethical and legal issues and responsibilities
- Biologic hazards, infection control, and standard precautions



- Fire, electrical, laser and explosion hazards in the operating room and other anesthesia related areas
- Storage, use and safe handling of bulk and cylinder gases
- Structure, function and care of all components of anesthesia delivery systems
- Sterile technique and the principals of aseptic practice
- Usage of common anesthetic gases
- Types and indications for local, monitored anesthesia care (MAC), regional and general anesthesia.

The functions of anesthesia technicians also include:

- Assisting the licensed anesthesia provider in clinical settings such as: the operating room (OR), obstetrics suite (OB), interventional and/or diagnostic radiology, Post anesthesia care unit (PACU), intensive care unit (ICU), CATH LAB, emergency room (ER), endoscopy, dental suites, ambulatory surgery suites.
- Demonstrating practical knowledge and expertise in all general areas of Anesthesia. The certified anesthesia technician must have a thorough knowledge of the set-up, operation and troubleshooting of anesthesia delivery systems, monitors, and ancillary devices. The certified anesthesia technicians will maintain a sufficient inventory of all equipment and supplies.
- Being knowledgeable of all guidelines, policies and safety requirements as Determined by all relevant regulatory and standard setting agencies or Organizations.
- Possessing an understanding of anatomy and physiology as it applies to anesthesia care.
- Performing effectively in the areas where anesthesia is provided, assist the Licensed anesthesia provider with patient assessments, evaluations, transport, Positioning, insertion of intravenous and other invasive lines, and airway management.



- Actively participates in the development and/or administration of continuing Education for the anesthesia technicians

During anesthesia

The anesthetic technicians role includes assisting with:

- Inducing and maintaining adequate anesthesia.
- Establishing and securing an airway.
- Making sure that patients are positioned in such a way NOT to cause discomfort or injury during their procedure.
- Monitoring and maintaining patients' vital signs and anesthesia depth.
- Temperature monitoring and regulation.
- Collection and analysis of patient (blood) samples.
- Acquiring and administering transfusion fluids and equipment.

After anesthesia

Anesthetic technicians assist the anesthetist with:

- Waking the patient.
- Removing airway devices.
- Transferring patients to post-operative care units

Other activities

Regional variations exist, but anesthetic technicians may also be involved with:

- Intra-operative intra-aortic balloon pump setup, operating and monitoring.
- Swan-Ganz pulmonary artery catheter insertion and monitoring.
- Intra-operative blood salvage setup, operating and monitoring.
- Arterial blood gas analysis, including maintenance of analysers.
- Arterial line insertion and monitoring.





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- Peripheral IV line insertion.
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- Central IV lines.

