

GUIDELINES ON MINIMUM ASSISTANCE FOR ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

**MINIMUM ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR THE SAFE CONDUCT OF
ANAESTHESIA**

1. PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 An assistant to the anaesthesiologist is essential for the safe and efficient conduct of anaesthesia.
- 1.2 The assistant may be an assistant specifically employed and trained for the task, or a nurse assistant with appropriate training.
- 1.3 The assistant :
 - 1.3.1 must be present during preparation for and induction of anaesthesia, until the anaesthesiologist indicates that the assistant is no longer required.
 - 1.3.2 must be available as required during the maintenance of anaesthesia, and for the monitoring needs of the patient.
 - 1.3.3 must be present at the conclusion of anaesthesia.
- 1.4 Staff employed for the above task must be adequately trained for their role.
- 1.5 There must be provision for a service to ensure the availability and maintenance in good order of equipment used in accordance with the Policy document T2 "Minimum Facilities for the Safe Anaesthetic Practice in Operating Suites".

2. DEPLOYMENT OF ASSISTANTS

- 2.1 The deployment of assistants should be specified by management protocols.
- 2.2 The nature and the workload of the anaesthetic service will determine the number and status of persons acting as assistants.
- 2.3 The duties of an assistant should be specified in a job description.
- 2.4 Whilst assisting the anaesthesiologist, the assistant is wholly and exclusively responsible to that anaesthesiologist.
- 2.5 The assistant is an essential member of the staff establishment for each area in which anaesthesia is provided.
- 2.6 Rosters and establishment for areas in which anaesthetics are given must allow for the availability of adequately trained assistants at all hours.
- 2.7 For administrative and educational reasons, where a number of assistants are employed, one of their number who is appropriately trained should be designated