

Anaesthetic Assistance - Full Clinical Guideline

Reference no.: CG-ANAES/2016/008

1. Introduction, aims and purpose

This guidance sets out the minimum staffing requirements for the administration of a general anaesthetic or sedation requiring anaesthetic support.

2. Definitions, Keywords

General Anaesthesia

Regional Anaesthesia

Sedation

Trained assistant

3. Guidelines

A trained assistant must be in attendance with the anaesthetist for the care of all patients requiring general anaesthesia, regional anaesthesia or sedation administered by an anaesthetist. Trained assistance for the anaesthetist must be provided wherever anaesthesia is provided. The safe administration of anaesthesia cannot be carried out singlehandedly; competent and exclusive assistance is necessary at all times. Adequate resources to employ, train and develop sufficient numbers of assistants to ensure a safe anaesthesia service in accordance with good practice must be provided by the trust.

The assistant must be an operating department practitioner or nurse trained and competent in anaesthetic practice according to national standards and regulation.

This guidance applies to all areas where anaesthesia services are required including theatres and all remote sites.

4. References (including any links to NICE Guidance etc.)

The anaesthesia team 3. AAGBI, London 2010 (<http://bit.ly/1cHPiWe>).

5. Documentation Controls

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