



UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD3690

JOB TITLE:	Anesthesia Assistant	JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:	60532/P.VI.65350.002
CLASSIFICATION:	Anesthesia Assistant P1	GRID/PAY LEVEL:	H-I-P1
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT:	Health Science Professionals	HSCIS NO.:	54901
UNION:	HSA	JOB/CLASS CODE:	54901
PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:	Surgical Perioperative	BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):	
REPORTING TO:	Manager or designate		
FACILITY/SITE:	Royal Jubilee Hospital; Victoria General Hospital; Nanaimo Regional General Hospital; Campbell River Hospital; Comox Valley Hospital; Cowichan District Hospital; Saanich Peninsula Hospital		

JOB SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Vision, Purpose, and Values, and strategic direction of Island Health (Vancouver Island Health Authority), patient and staff safety is a priority and a responsibility shared by everyone; as such, the requirement to continuously improve quality and safety is inherent in all aspects of this position.

Reporting to the Manager or designate, under the clinical supervision and direction of the anesthesiologist and in accordance with the standards of practice and guidelines of the Canadian Anesthesiologists Society (CAS), the Anesthesia Assistant functions as a member of an integrated surgical team by providing technical support and clinical assistance with induction, maintenance and recovery phases of anesthesia.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Assists with the induction of anesthesia, including pediatric/neonatal patients, by performing duties such as:
 - Monitoring and documenting patient progress and reporting patient status.
 - Establishing the insertion of intravenous lines.
 - Establishing, monitoring and management of the airway.
 - Collecting, monitoring and recording patient data.
 - Assisting with difficult intubations and establishing other patient monitoring systems.
 - Administration of topical aerosol anesthetics.
 - Catheterizes radial and/or pedal arteries.
 - Post operative ventilation monitoring.
 - Providing diagnostic data by performing arterial blood gas sampling and analysis, end tidal carbon dioxide monitoring, pulse oximetry, glucose testing, cardiac output determination, wedge measurements, and hemodynamic calculations.
 - Assists with cardio-pulmonary resuscitation with cardiac arrests in accordance with established procedures.

2. Assists with a variety of intraoperative procedures, such as:

- Fiberoptic airway procedures.
 - Blood and blood product administration.
 - Autotransfusion (cell saver).
 - Assists with cases in other areas, such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT), and Angio suites as required.
3. Administers prescribed pharmacological agents to patients as directed by mixing and drawing up prescribed drugs, infusion of drugs affecting vascular tone, and observing, recording and communicating the efficacy of treatment.
4. Tests, maintains, monitors and prepares a variety of medical equipment such as:
- Anesthetic gas machines.
 - Intubation equipment.
 - Fiberoptic bronchoscopes and related difficult airway equipment.
 - Breathing circuits.
 - Ventilators.
 - Monitoring equipment.
 - Infusion devices.
 - Auto transfusion equipment (cell saver).
 - Intra-arterial lines.
 - Central Venous Pressure (CVP) lines.
 - Swan Ganz catheters.
 - Electrocardiograms.
 - Pulse oximeters.
 - End tidal carbon dioxide monitors.
 - Difficult airway management equipment, including trachilites, fastracks, glidescopes, fiberoptic scopes and related equipment.
 - Specialty equipment such as difficult intubation and malignant hyperthermia (MH) carts.
5. Checks, monitors, stocks and cleans anesthesia carts and maintains supply inventory, including completing purchase requisitions for approval in accordance with established procedures.
6. In conjunction with Anesthesiology and Biomedical Engineering departments, tests and identifies malfunctions to a variety of medical equipment to determine whether repairs should be made in house or by the vendor. Establishes and maintains a preventive maintenance program and carries out minor maintenance following manufacturer's guidelines or as directed by Biomedical Engineering, checks repairs to ensure that the equipment is operating in a good and effective manner.
7. Assists with capital equipment and budgets by conducting equipment need assessments and research and making recommendations for changes and improvements. Meets with medical equipment and pharmacological sales representatives as required regarding trialing and evaluating new equipment and drugs in accordance with established protocols and procedures. Gathers and collates feedback for assigned equipment trials and evaluations.
8. Carries out quality assurance activities as required such as following up on and investigating incident reports, evaluations and other data, and collecting and compiling statistical data for research and evaluation purposes.
9. Demonstrates personal initiative in maintaining professional knowledge and currency by attending educational events as required by the employer, and presenting a summary. Participates in orientation of medical personnel, staff and students by demonstrating anesthesia equipment and procedures.

10. Performs other related duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Graduation from a recognized school of Respiratory Therapy. Completion of an accredited post-graduate Anesthetic Assistant Program.

Comprehensive knowledge of current anesthesia theory and practice, and knowledge of the Canadian Anesthesiologists Society (CAS) clinical practice guidelines. Eligible for Anesthetic Assistant membership with the CAS.

Basic Cardiac Life Support certification.

Skills And Abilities

- Demonstrated ability and skill in the use of medical equipment and supplies appropriate to the clinical area
- Physical ability to carry out the duties of the position.
- Ability to assess patient responses to care and respond appropriately
- Ability to deal with conflict situations
- Ability to use critical decision making skills
- Ability to work effectively with others
- Ability to carry out work independently and in collaboration with others
- Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- Ability to demonstrate equipment and procedures
- Ability to operate related equipment, including computers utilizing a variety of software applications