



Dear Colleague

ANAESTHETIC ASSISTANCE

Introduction

This letter alerts you to the publication of a [report](#) on the provision of skilled anaesthetic assistance offered by nurses and operating department practitioners. The recommendations have important implications for the safeworking of the perioperative team.

Action

The most specific and urgent of the report's recommendations relates to the training of operating department practitioners (ODPs). From December 2004, the minimum requirement for registration will be a Diploma of Higher Education.

NHS Education for Scotland has agreed to work closely with the Regional Planning Groups, NHS Boards and providers of Higher Education to take this recommendation forward.

NHS Boards and Trusts are reminded of their clinical governance obligations to ensure that they devote sufficient resources to guarantee that their staff have the required skills and competencies to maintain patient safety.

The Scottish Executive Health Department strongly commends this report to NHS Boards and Trusts.

6th June 2003

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Chief Executives NHS Acute Trusts
Chief Executive, NHS Education for
Scotland
Regional Workforce Planning Co-
ordinators

For information

Medical Directors NHS Boards
Medical Directors NHS Acute Trusts
Directors of Nursing, NHS Boards
Directors of Nursing, Acute Trusts

Enquiries to:

Ms Allison Tait
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 3194
Fax: 0131-244 2671



Further copies of the report may be accessed from the SHOW website at www.show.scot.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

DR E M ARMSTRONG
(Chief Medical Officer)

MISS ANNE JARVIE
(Chief Nursing Officer)