



15 March 2022

Vanessa Hille
Policy Officer Professional Documents
Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists
& the Faculty of Pain Medicine
profdocs@anzca.edu.au

Dear Vanessa,

Re: *Perioperative anaphylaxis management guideline*

About the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists (NZSA)

The NZSA is a professional medical education society which represents over 750 anaesthetists in New Zealand. Our members include specialist anaesthetists in public and private practice, and trainee anaesthetists. Our key roles are advocacy, facilitating and promoting education, and strengthening networks of anaesthetists nationwide.

Overview

The NZSA welcomes the opportunity to submit on the above Australian and New Zealand Anaesthetic Allergy Group (ANZAAG) and ANZCA guideline on anaphylaxis occurring during the perioperative period. We believe that the intent and purpose of the document is clear and that overall, the information addresses the issues well.

Comments

Under the decision to carry on with surgery or not, one of our Executive members has raised the issue that there are frequent reports of cases abandoned after grade 1 or 2 anaphylaxis, or cases which turn out not to be anaphylaxis at all with mild changes. This is very disruptive to the patient involved.

We would suggest wording that is more positive about proceeding with surgery in mild type cases or uncertain cases. For example, it may be appropriate to add (see italics below):

1. The decision to proceed or abandon surgery will be determined by the urgency of the surgery, the grade of anaphylaxis, the response to treatment and the patient's underlying comorbidities. *It may be acceptable to continue where the reaction is grade 1 or 2.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are happy to answer any questions if required.

Yours sincerely, ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Dr Sheila Hart
NZSA President