

RACS proposal – Principles for private training of Surgical Registrars

Purpose:

- **To increase the health system capacity to train surgical registrars** - Surgeons working in private settings have trained on publicly funded vocational training schemes. Their social licence to operate carries an obligation to contribute to vocational training for future surgeons. The ability to train in the private setting on outsourced public patients fulfils this responsibility.
- **Training surgical registrars operating in private ensures training registrars get exposure to cases with low volumes delivered in public** – so they can complete vocational training in a timely manner and with sufficient exposure to different case types to practice safely as an SMO.

Principles:

- **Training registrars will be assigned to a SMO in private with whom they have a pre-existing relationship within public.** This ensures SMOs have confidence in the capabilities of training registrars and provides assurance as to training registrar skill and credentials. It also allows continuity in training experience for the registrar
- **Training registrars remain employed by Te Whatu Ora - Health NZ while in private.**
- **The initial focus will be on cases, specialties and settings where training registrars working with the surgeon will not materially reduce productivity.** The surgeon will remain in the operating room at all times and manage the surgical plan including start and finish time. Some surgeons and services may face reduction in productivity impacts; these are areas requiring further consideration before implementation.
- **Training registrars in private will predominantly work with the responsible surgeon in the operating room; rather than on pre- and post-operative care.** Training registrars may participate in patient review with the SMO and should support provision of informed patient consent.
- **Training registrars will initially only be primary operator on patients outsourced from the public system.** In time, this might include appropriate ACC cases – subject to future work with ACC.
- **This approach will ensure no expectation of private providers becoming ‘training institutions’ for training registrars.** Te Whatu Ora - Health NZ will work with Colleges to ensure this is the case.
- **This work focuses on training surgical registrars, but in the context of wider shared commitments to workforce development.** We will explore opportunities for partnership and collective support for growth in other medical disciplines, nursing, midwifery, allied and support workforces.
- **The training registrar’s time allocated to public surgery in private and access to cases will count towards training requirements.** Te Whatu Ora - Health NZ will allocate any publicly appointed registrars (both surgical registrars and service registrars) to assist with public patients in private.