

Double Doping

Double doping is defined as anaesthetizing two or more patients at the same time. Members are advised that this is an illegal and unethical practice. The HPCSA has previously issued a ruling regarding this practice noting that double doping is a violation of ethical rules 21(a) and 21(b) of the Ethics Rules of Conduct for Practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974.

SASA would like to advise members that the following practices are considered to be double doping:

1. Running two theatres in parallel. This involves starting a case in a second theatre while the patient in the first theatre is still on the operating table.
2. Starting a case in theatre while the previous patient is still anaesthetized and intubated in the recovery room
3. Leaving a patient anaesthetized in the operating theatre to go into the obstetric labour ward to insert a labour epidural.

Members are therefore cautioned against engaging in these practices. Every patient under anaesthesia has the right to the undivided attention of the anaesthetic service provider.