



SASA PPBU Update: Life Healthcare and Netcare

1. Life Healthcare

Pharmacy, Medication and Procurement

SASA and Life Healthcare continue to engage through a dedicated pharmacy and procurement workstream, separate from the broader quarterly governance meetings.

Current discussions include medication and product availability, communication with clinicians, processes for reporting product concerns and treatment failures, and improving clinician participation in future product evaluations. Life is also reviewing utilisation data relating to products previously raised with SASA, including Rocuronium, Sugammadex and Tranexamic acid, with further feedback expected as this work progresses.

Practice of Diplomate Anaesthetists

SASA has recently engaged with Life Healthcare management regarding questions raised about the practice of diplomate anaesthetists at certain Life Healthcare facilities. Life Healthcare has confirmed that there is no group-wide policy that automatically excludes diplomate anaesthetists from practising at its facilities. SASA will continue to engage with Life Healthcare through the established SASA–Life forum should further clarification be required.

Facility-Level Communications

SASA is also aware of notices issued by certain individual hospitals regarding practitioner credentialling, supporting documentation and practising privileges.

SASA has raised these communications directly with Life Healthcare head office. SASA and Life Healthcare agreed on the importance of ensuring that communications affecting anaesthetic practice are clear, appropriately reviewed and, where relevant, aligned at group level.

Life Healthcare is reviewing the specific communication raised, including the terminology used and the intended process. SASA will continue to engage with Life head office and, where appropriate, provide input on relevant anaesthesia-related communications before broader implementation.

The aim is to promote clear, consistent communication for practitioners across facilities while respecting Life Healthcare's appropriate governance and credentialling responsibilities.

Practitioners are reminded to ensure their credentialling and supporting documentation are current and submitted to the relevant Life Healthcare hospitals where they regularly practise.

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It is also advisable to keep an up-to-date set of the required documents readily available for submission when providing anaesthetic services at a Life Healthcare facility where you do not regularly work.

Keeping documentation current and readily accessible will help minimise unnecessary administrative delays when practising across different facilities.

Ongoing Engagement

The general SASA–Life governance meeting and the dedicated pharmacy/procurement workstream will continue quarterly, providing an established mechanism for SASA to raise member concerns and work collaboratively with Life Healthcare on matters affecting anaesthetic practice.

2. Netcare

Facility Agreement and 2026 Credentialling Cycle

SASA PPBU continues its engagement with Netcare regarding the anaesthesia-specific facility agreement.

Following the previous review and discussions between SASA and Netcare, Netcare has now provided feedback, proposed changes and suggestions for consideration. SASA is currently reviewing these amendments before finalising the agreement.

We recognise that the usual 2026 credentialling cycle date has passed and that members awaiting completion of the process may be concerned about the delay. Members are reminded that the credentialling timeline for anaesthesiologists has been delayed while the anaesthesia-specific agreement is being finalised.

Members awaiting SASA's communication regarding the agreement should therefore continue to hold off on completing the agreement until further notice.

Once SASA and Netcare have completed the review and finalised the agreement, SASA will communicate directly with members that they may proceed with credentialling and signing the agreement.

We appreciate members' patience while we conclude this process and will communicate further as soon as the final agreement is ready.

Contributed by Dr Leanne Frankish

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