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South African Heart Association



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Whom it may concern,

RE: Anaesthetist billing query

It is acceptable for a cardiologist to use an anaesthetist in the cathlab at his/her own discretion if he/she believes that this will improve procedural success and/or reduce patient risk. It is acknowledged that an anaesthetist is not required for every case as a matter of routine, but SASCI cannot prescribe as to the frequency with which it is required. This will depend on the case mix in the context of a particular practice and the type of procedures being performed. Requirement for an anaesthetist can possibly be 100% of cases in certain environments. If a funder believes that a practitioner is abusing the use of an anaesthetist in the cathlab, then the funder will need to take that up with the individual practitioner in the same way that they would for other "abuse". Opinions can be sought from SA Heart or SASCI at the funder's expense.

Sincerely

Dr Farrel Hellig
President: South African Society of Cardiovascular Intervention

Dr Adriaan Snyders
President: South African Heart Association

