## ACMVET5X30 Perform medical and minor surgical veterinary procedures

#### Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required for veterinary nurses working at an advanced level to prepare for, perform and complete a range of advanced medical and minor surgical procedures, under the direction and supervision of a registered veterinarian.

It applies to veterinary nurses who undertake procedures that require specialised anatomical knowledge, advanced clinical judgement, aseptic techniques, and precise technical skill. These procedures include (but are not limited to) peripheral incisional dermal biopsies, intraosseous, intra-arterial and intravenous catheter placement using a cut-down approach, urinary catheterisation, surgical or medical placement of feeding tubes and cat castration.

Work is performed with a high level of autonomy and accountability, within the limits of legislation and the nurse’s defined scope of practice in their jurisdiction.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

Legislative and regulatory requirements relating to the permitted scope of veterinary nursing practice vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users of this unit must confirm current requirements with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery.

#### Pre-requisite unit Nil

#### Unit sector

Veterinary Nursing (VET)

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| **Elements** *Elements describe the essential outcomes.* | **Performance criteria**  *Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.* |
| 1. Prepare the patient and necessary resources for the specific procedure | 1.1 Confirm the procedure to be undertaken and supervision parameters with the veterinarian  1.2 Assess patient history, diagnostic information and presenting condition to determine readiness for the procedure  1.3 Select and prepare monitoring equipment, instruments, consumables, catheters and tubing required for the procedure  1.4 Establish and maintain aseptic fields and sterile zones required for procedures |
| 2. Perform procedure under veterinary direction | 2.1 Position and prepare the patient for the specific procedure using species-appropriate handling and restraint techniques  2.2 Apply technical procedural steps using precise handling of tissues, instruments, catheters and devices  2.3 Maintain aseptic technique and minimise tissue trauma during all stages of the procedure  2.4 Recognise and respond to procedural complications, seeking veterinary direction when required  2.5 Safely collect, label and manage biological samples where obtained as part of the procedure |
| 3. Apply equipment, materials and wound management techniques | 3.1 Use instruments, catheters, feeding tubes, biopsy tools and wound-closure materials safely and for their intended purposes  3.2 Apply haemostasis methods appropriate to tissue type and procedural requirements  3.3 Administer medications, fluids, sedatives or local anaesthetics as directed by the veterinarian  3.4 Perform appropriate wound closure, dressing, stabilisation or site protection following procedural protocols |
| 4. Provide intra and post-procedural care | 4.1 Monitor patient physiological parameters, comfort and anaesthesia if applicable, throughout the procedure  4.2 Maintain patient safety, sterility and procedural efficiency through coordinated communication with the veterinary team  4.3 Complete immediate post-procedural monitoring and nursing support care according to veterinary direction  4.4 Provide ongoing wound, site or device care and assess for complications  4.5 Document procedure details, patient responses, medications and follow-up requirements using industry-standard terminology |

#### Foundation skills

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| **Learning** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Oral communication** | **Numeracy** |
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**Assessment Requirements**

**Performance evidence**

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has prepared for and performed, under veterinary supervision, each of the following procedures at least once:

* peripheral incisional dermal biopsy
* intravenous catheter placement using a cut-down method
* intraosseous catheter placement
* intra-arterial catheter placement
* urinary catheterisation
* placement of a feeding tube via surgical means
* cat castration.

Performance must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice where medical and surgical procedures are performed, or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice where medical and surgical procedures are carried out on real animals.

**Knowledge evidence**

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

* relevant anatomy and physiology, including vascular, dermal, musculoskeletal, urinary, digestive and reproductive systems
* principles of aseptic techniques and contamination control
* indications, contraindications, procedural steps and required equipment, materials and instruments for common medical and minor surgical procedures performed by veterinary nurses, including:

peripheral incisional dermal biopsy

IV catheter placement via cut-down

intraosseous and intra-arterial catheter placement

urinary catheterisation across species and sexes

feeding tube placement methods and care

cat castration

* wound management principles
* basic surgical closure patterns
* site protection and monitoring requirements
* pain assessment, sedation, local anaesthesia and peri-procedural medication protocols
* recognition and management of procedural complications, including:

haemorrhage

catheter misplacement

infection

tissue trauma

* patient monitoring parameters and interpretation during and after procedures
* organisational procedures and key requirements of relevant state or territory legislation and regulations relating to administering performing minor surgical and medical procedures, including:

the practice of veterinary science

work health and safety (WHS)

waste disposal

animal welfare

the use of therapeutic and controlled substances

documentation and record keeping.

**Assessment conditions**

Skills must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice where complex medical and surgical procedures are performed, or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice where complex medical and surgical procedures are carried out on real animals.

Assessment must ensure access to:

* real animals requiring the procedures in the Performance Evidence
* surgical and medical instruments, catheters, feeding tubes and sterile consumables
* anaesthesia and monitoring equipment
* organisational policies, procedural guidelines and legislative information

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

#### Unit mapping information

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| **Code and title current version** | **Code and title previous version** | **Equivalence status** | **Comments** |
| ACMVET5X30 Perform medical and minor surgical veterinary procedures | Not applicable | Newly created | This unit has been created to address a skill or task required by industry that is not covered by an existing unit  Industry and training provider stakeholders have identified a need for veterinary nurses to acquire a deeper level of knowledge and more advanced skills in medical procedures and performing minor surgical procedures to support contemporary veterinary practice.  Recent legislative changes in one jurisdiction have expanded the scope of practice for veterinary nurses to include the performance of more advanced medical and surgical procedures, under veterinary supervision. This expanded scope requires training to ensure veterinary nurses are appropriately equipped with the specialised knowledge, technical skills and clinical judgement necessary to undertake these responsibilities safely and competently. |

### Overview information

#### Modification History

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| **Release** | **Comments** |
| 1 | This unit of competency was first released in ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Release 7.0. |

**Mandatory workplace requirements:**

Mandatory workplace requirements apply to this unit of competency and are specified in the Performance Evidence and Assessment Conditions of the Assessment Requirements.