## ACMVET4X14 Perform surgical nursing routines

#### Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to coordinate surgery schedules, prepare patients and the surgical environment and provide support to the veterinarian, before, during and after surgical procedures.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses, who work independently under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice. Veterinary nurses who perform surgical routines need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of animal anatomy and physiology.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to the permitted scope of work of veterinary nurses but vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users must check 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 surgery schedules | 1.1 Prepare and prioritise surgery schedules in consultation with the veterinarian, using industry terminology  1.2 Prepare and collate consent forms, anaesthesia monitoring records and other surgical documentation according to practice policy  1.3 Manage surgery schedule according to veterinary instructions |
| 2. Prepare for surgical procedures | 2.1 Communicate effectively with veterinarian and clients in relation to surgical preparation, procedures and post-recovery needs  2.2 Prepare patient for surgery  2.3 Select and position surgical packs, equipment and supplies for scheduled procedures  2.4 Position anaesthetic machine and monitoring equipment  2.5 Confirm theatre staff are appropriately dressed for surgery and assist with aseptic gloving and gowning, as required |
| 3. Provide support for surgical procedures | 3.1 Hold, restrain or position anaesthetised animals during the surgical procedure  3.2 Open surgical packs and provide theatre equipment, instruments or supplies to the veterinarian as required, using aseptic techniques  3.3 Provide non-sterile and sterile assistance to the veterinarian as required, using aseptic practices and as permitted within legal scope of work |
| 4. Perform post-operative procedures | 4.1 Carry out defined post-operative patient management procedures according to veterinarian’s instructions  4.2 Dispose of clinical and other waste in compliance with biosecurity and hazardous waste protocols |

#### Foundation skills

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| **Learning** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Oral communication** | **Numeracy** |
| 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |

**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 performed surgical nursing routines on a minimum of two occasions, where the occasions include at least two different species and at least two different surgical procedures.

Performance must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice where 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:

* animal anatomy and physiology related to surgical nursing routines
* aseptic techniques in veterinary surgery, including general theatre etiquette, dress rules and restricted areas
* pre-operative patient preparation

surgical site preparation

scrub patterns and techniques

skin antiseptics and their actions, including dilution ratios and contact time

positioning

* surgery schedule considerations, including:

sterile and non-sterile

body cavity invasive or superficial

orthopaedic

orthodontic

soft tissue

emergency or urgent

presence of infection

thoracic

* surgical procedures typically carried out in a veterinary practice or hospital and the relevant equipment and instruments used for each
* suturing techniques
* preparation of surgery packs, including identifying which packs are required for which procedures, grouping them for each patient and adding extra requirements, including scalpel blades and suture materials
* surgical instruments and their use, including:

air-powered and electrical-powered equipment

bone chucks

bone plates and screws

clamps

forceps

needle holders

retractors

scalpels

scissors

suture materials

* equipment used in theatre, including:

lighting

active warming

* anaesthetic equipment and supplies
* surgical supplies and their use, including:

catheters

drains

laparotomy sponges

needles and sutures

swabs

syringes

* sterilisation techniques, including the operation of autoclaves and alternative sterilisation techniques, including gamma irradiation, ethylene oxide and chemical sterilisation and their associated health hazards
* post-operative patient management procedures

post-surgical cleaning of patients

vital signs

signs of pain and pain scoring systems

* practice protocols for the storage, use and disposal of chemicals and biological debris from veterinary surgical procedures
* relevant veterinary surgeon legislation and regulations.

**Assessment conditions**

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

Assessment must ensure access to:

* equipment, instruments and surgical supplies typically available for veterinary surgery, including equipment used for post-operative care
* real animals requiring surgical procedures

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** |
| ACMVET4X14 Perform surgical nursing routines | ACMVET203 Assist with surgery preparation | Not equivalent | Unit merged with ACMVET405 Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines.  E1, PC2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and E3 associated with preparing patient for surgical procedure and assisting with gowning, preparation of and handling of surgical packs and immediate post-operative care included in this unit. |
| ACMVET4X14 Perform surgical nursing routines | ACMVET405 Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines | Not equivalent | Unit merged with ACMVET203 Assist with surgery preparation  Title change  Changes to wording of Application to remove reference to monitoring patients under anaesthesia and reference to requiring prior knowledge of ‘surgical procedures, typically carried out in a veterinary practice or hospital’ (explicitly added to required knowledge, as this knowledge is not in other ACMVET units).  Wording changes to PC1.1, 1.3  Replace PC2.3 ‘Perform routine surgical site preparation’ with new PC2.2 Prepare patient for surgery and added ‘pre-operative patient preparation’ to knowledge evidence  PC2.5 wording changed  Order and wording of PC3.2 and PC3.3 changed. PC3.3 expanded to allow surgical assistance, such as suturing, to be provided where legal scope of work allows. Suturing techniques added to knowledge evidence.  PC3.4 re disposal of waste moved to 4.2 in element ‘perform post-operative procedures’  PC4.3 removed (included with provision of ‘discharge’ information).  Element 5 re cleaning and sterilisation removed  PE – reworded to remove duplication with PC and reference to performance of a specified number of hours. Unit still requires performance to be demonstrated in a veterinary practice, or environment were surgical procedures are carried out on real animals.  Knowledge evidence associated with cleaning removed  Suturing techniques added  CRP techniques removed as techniques for cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and emergency FA responses included in anaesthesia and analgesics unit.  Wound management, post-operative bandaging, splint and cast care removed  Remove vital signs and reflexes monitored under anaesthesia as included in the anaesthesia and analgesia unit. |

### 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.