## ACMVET5X21 Manage nursing requirements for specialised surgical procedures

#### Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage nursing requirements for specialised veterinary surgical procedures. Specialised surgical procedures may be invasive, technically complex or high-risk, including advanced orthopaedic, neurological, thoracic, abdominal and ophthalmic procedures and are surgeries which typically exceed the scope of routine or common surgical interventions performed in general practice.

Managing these nursing requirements requires access to a practice where such procedures are undertaken using the appropriate equipment, specialised instrumentation and clinical resources.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses who work in veterinary practices under the supervision of a registered or more highly qualified veterinarian who regularly performs advanced or specialist-level surgical interventions. It is designed for veterinary nurses typically with significant vocational experience who provide advanced surgical nursing skills and peri-operative support within the limits of their job role and legal scope of practice.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to the scope of veterinary nursing practice and 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. Conduct admission processes | 1.1 Coordinate appointment and provide pre-operative instructions and hospital routine information to the client  1.2 Compile patient history and client details according to surgeon’s requirements  1.3 Obtain patient samples, and process or submit for analytical testing, according to surgeon’s directions  1.4 Incorporate pathological and diagnostic aid results with patient’s history |
| 2. Supervise theatre environment preparation | 2.1 Coordinate theatre preparation to ensure aseptic conditions are achieved before, and maintained during surgery  2.2 Prepare and check specialised materials, equipment and instruments suitable for individual animal and procedure are ready for surgeon  2.3 Perform personal preparation for theatre  2.4 Supervise and assist with scrubbing, gowning, gloving and masking of others  2.5 Confirm work health and safety (WHS) and environmental legislative requirements and infection prevention and control (IPC) policies and procedures followed by all personnel |
| 3. Complete pre-operative procedures | 3.1 Perform pre-surgical patient evaluation and record and report observations  3.2 Report patient medical status to the surgeon and assist with patient stabilisation  3.3 Design an individual intravenous fluid therapy plan in consultation with surgeon  3.4 Supervise patient preparation for surgery and position on the operating table |
| 4. Provide intra-operative support to surgeon | 4.1 Monitor anaesthesia and adjust, apply ventilation support or administer intra-operative medications as directed by the surgeon  4.2 Anticipate progress of surgery and surgeon’s requirements  4.3 Aseptically handle and pass instruments, materials and equipment to the surgeon  4.4 Provide specific surgical operating support, as required |
| 5. Provide post-operative support to patient | 5.1 Monitor and support patient recovery from anaesthesia  5.2 Perform pain assessment on post-operative patient and develop pain management plan in consultation with surgeon |
| 6. Manage theatre cleanup | 6.1 Oversee the cleaning, disinfecting and sterilisation of theatre equipment and the theatre environment  6.2 Manage the safe disposal of clinical waste, sharps and contaminated materials in accordance with workplace IPC policies and procedures and environmental legislative requirements  6.2 Coordinate the packing and storage of drapery, instruments and surgical equipment according to IPC procedures |

#### Foundation skills *(optional)*

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| **Learning** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Oral communication** | **Numeracy** |
| 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 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:

* managed the nursing requirements, including pre, intra and post operative, for at least two of the following specialised surgical procedures, with each of the two procedures for a different species:

thoracotomy

abdominal surgery

cystotomy

spinal surgery

orthopaedic surgery

* managed theatre requirements and overseen the cleaning, sterilisation and maintenance requirements of surgical equipment, including at least two of:

endoscope

laparoscope

arthroscope

electrosurgical unit/diathermy

electrocardiogram (ECG)

ventilator

suction equipment.

Performance must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice, specialist centre or veterinary hospital where specialised surgical procedures are performed, or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice, specialist centre or veterinary hospital where specialised 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:

* anaesthesia including anaesthetic types, induction and monitoring procedures and recognising emergencies
* animal anatomy and physiology related to specialised surgical procedures
* specialised surgical and anaesthesia equipment and instruments and how to use each one, including:

anaesthesia equipment

blood pressure monitoring equipment

capnograph

catheter

wound drain

electrocardiograph (ECG machine)

electrosurgical unit (ESU)

endoscope

fluid therapy pump

heated operating table

laryngoscope

oesophageal stethoscope

orthopaedic equipment including drill and saw

pulse oximeter

anaesthesia gas scavenging system

suction pump

syringe driver

ventilator

* aseptic techniques
* intravenous fluid therapy purposes and procedures
* radiographic and other imaging routines relating to specialised surgical routines
* pain management and sedation medications and techniques
* state/territory legislation and regulations relating to the practice of veterinary science/medicine, work health and safety (WHS) and environment relevant to surgical procedures
* processes involved, equipment and instruments required and nursing duties in specialised surgical procedures, including:

thoracotomy

abdominal surgery

cystotomy

spinal surgery

orthopaedic surgery

* specialised surgical nursing theatre routines
* specialised bandages and their use
* Australian Standard for cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising re-useable medical and surgical instruments and equipment and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities
* workplace hygiene standards, cleaning agents, disinfectants and sterilisers, product specifications and safety data sheets (SDS), techniques, equipment and materials

**Assessment conditions**

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

Assessment must ensure access to:

* a range of real patients
* surgical environment, equipment, instruments and resources typically available for specialised veterinary surgery
* organisational policies and procedures, current legislation and regulations relevant to WHS, environment, administration of drugs and poisons and veterinary acts of science/medicine
* relevant sections of current Australian Standards.

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** |
| ACMVET5X21 Manage nursing requirements for specialised surgical procedures | ACMVET501 Manage nursing requirements for specialised surgical procedures | Equivalent | Unit re-templated to 2025 template  Changes to wording of Application to provide more definition regarding specialised surgical procedures and remove requirement for supervision by MANZCVS.  E1: Change wording from ‘Conduct admission processes for specialised surgical procedures under supervision of a veterinary surgeon’ to ‘Conduct admission processes’.  PC1.2 minor grammatical change from ‘patient histories’ plural to ‘patient history’ (singular) to align with rest of unit  PC1.3 add ‘and process’ re samples  PC2.1 wording change from ‘Coordinate theatre preparation to achieve aseptic conditions before and during surgery’ to ‘Coordinate theatre preparation to ensure aseptic conditions are achieved before, and maintained during surgery’  PC2.4 Reworded from ‘Supervise gloving and gowning of others’ to ‘2.4 Supervise and assist with scrubbing, gowning, gloving and masking of others’ (incorporate 5.1 ‘surgeon’s personal preparations’).  Added PC 2.5 relating to ensuring WHS and infection prevention and control procedures followed  (PC2.2 ‘prepare and check [ ] equipment and materials ready for surgery’ according to WHS and practice policies and procedures incorrect)  Remove PC 3.1 as is knowledge evidence  3.1 (new) add ‘record’  Element 4 Monitor anaesthesia under the direction and supervision of the surgeon deleted, and PC 4.1 added - ‘Monitor anaesthesia and adjust, apply ventilation support or administer intra-operative medications as directed by the surgeon’ (to reduce duplication with other anaesthesia units, and little to no knowledge of monitoring anaesthesia in this unit)  E5 (previously element 6) changed from ‘Provide post-operative support to patient under supervision of veterinary surgeon’ to ‘Provide post-operative support to patient’  PC6.1 minor change to wording from ‘Monitor and support anaesthetic recovery of patients’ to ‘Monitor and support patient recovery from anaesthesia’  E6 change from ‘Manage equipment cleaning and maintenance’ to ‘Manage theatre cleanup’  PC 6.1 added ‘disinfecting and sterilisation’ not just cleaning and maintenance  Additional PC added re disposal of waste and materials  Wording PC 6.3 changed from ‘Coordinate the packing and storage of instruments and surgical equipment’ to ‘Coordinate the packing and storage of drapery, instruments and surgical equipment according to IPC procedures’  PE: Re-worded for clarity and to reduce duplicating E and PC.  Remove requirement for specified number of mandatory work hours, whilst retaining requirement to demonstrate performance in a workplace with real animals/procedures.  KE: changes to wording of some knowledge requirements – added knowledge of aseptic techniques (as critical to surgical work). |

### 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.