



**Australian Government**

# **Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU509 Conduct assessment for equine massage therapy**

**Release: 1**

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## Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 5.0.

## 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:

- conducted a complete assessment of at least six different horses, including at least one of each of the following:
  - young horse
  - mature horse (6–8 years or older)
  - horse in active work/exercise
  - horse undergoing rehabilitation or spelling
- used palpation techniques and observation techniques
- demonstrated safe, low stress horse handling techniques
- interacted with two different clients or carers, including:
  - gathered comprehensive background information for each horse
  - explained information about service, therapy options and rationale
  - recorded information accurately and comprehensively.

## 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:

- role and responsibilities of equine massage service providers, including:
  - scope of practice and limits to activities as specified in relevant veterinary practice and restricted acts of veterinary science
  - referrals for conditions outside provider's professional and personal scope
  - professional indemnity and public liability insurance requirements
- techniques for effective client or carer interactions, including clear advice, collaborative communication and client confidentiality

- responsibilities under relevant health and safety and animal welfare legislation and codes of practice
- principles of equine massage service provision, including:
  - practices to minimise safety hazards and risks
  - ethical and humane handling of horses
  - hygiene and biosecurity requirements
  - principles of client confidentiality
- potential advantages of massage therapy, including:
  - increase range of motion
  - enhance muscle tone
  - relieve stress and tension
  - increase mental clarity required to focus for training
  - improve circulation
  - enhance healing of injuries
- equine musculoskeletal system, including:
  - bones and joints
  - major bony landmarks surface anatomy and palpable bony landmarks
  - key function and features of fore and hind limbs, including distal limb and hoof capsule
  - key muscles and their actions, origin and insertion points
  - location of deep and superficial muscles
  - location of tendons, ligaments and soft tissues
  - function and anatomy of fascial sheaths
- key anatomical and physiological terminology used to describe the equine musculoskeletal system
- changes or impacts on equine musculoskeletal system, including:
  - age and growth
  - exercise, training and performance
  - ailments and injury
- health and safety hazards and controls when working in close proximity with horses, including:
  - use of safe, low stress handling techniques
  - use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - hygiene and infection control
  - zoonotic and infectious diseases, including those caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses
- palpation and physical examination techniques to determine muscle tension, joint mobility, nerve reflex and soreness or pain
- observation of horse, including:
  - gait, stance, symmetry
  - conformation and posture

- behaviour
- facial expression
- reactions and behavioural signs indicating soreness, pain or tension, including:
  - vocalisation
  - pulling away, stiffness, restricted movement
  - lameness or gait issues
  - increased resistance to gear
  - nervousness, unsettled or unwilling to perform correctly or consistently
- signs of caution and contraindications, including:
  - inflammation
  - injury
  - wound healing and stages
  - pain types
- formats for record-keeping
- industry trends and advancements in area of massage, including:
  - use of X-rays/scans
  - physiotherapy machines – laser therapy, therapeutic ultrasound, magnetic field therapy
  - ice or heat pack therapy
  - application of liniments.

## Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - an equine workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - live horses assessed as suitable for the experience and skills of the individual, as specified in the performance evidence
  - horse gear and PPE appropriate for activity
  - record-keeping formats
- relationships:
  - clients or carers as specified in the performance evidence
- specifications:
  - relevant workplace policies and procedures, and animal welfare legislation and codes of practice
  - relevant public liability insurance requirements.

Two Companion Volumes are available:

- *Companion Volume: User Guide: Equine Allied Health* provides delivery and assessment information tailored for equine allied health practitioners
- *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training* provides advice and sample templates to assist assessors with the risk assessments that should be undertaken to help ensure the safety of all involved in the assessment.

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

## Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>