



Australian Government

ACMVET507 Provide nursing support for critical care surgery

Release: 2

ACMVET507 Provide nursing support for critical care surgery

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 2	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0.
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 2.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare for critical care surgery and support the veterinarian during the surgery.

It is targeted at veterinary nurses who work in a veterinary hospital or emergency/specialist veterinary practice where an extensive range of emergency and critical care procedures are performed under the supervision of a registered or specialist veterinarian in a referral centre or in an emergency centre. It applies to veterinary nurses with extensive vocational experience.

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to veterinary nurses but vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users must check with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery.

NOTE: The terms ‘occupational health and safety’ (OHS) and ‘work health and safety’ (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Veterinary Nursing (VET)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>

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1. Prepare for a critical care surgical patient	1.1 Identify the patient's requirements and prepare patient for surgery 1.2 Prepare surgical and monitoring equipment
2. Monitor patient from induction to recovery	2.1 Provide assistance to the veterinarian for induction and apply safe work practices and animal welfare protocols 2.2 Identify anatomy and physiology as it relates to monitoring patient vital signs and response to anaesthetic agents 2.3 Monitor anaesthetic continuously and record data under the direct supervision of a veterinarian 2.4 Monitor vital signs constantly and respond to abnormal signs 2.5 Administer analgesia and monitor response under veterinary supervision 2.6 Apply specific emergency procedures as directed by the veterinarian 2.7 Provide specific surgical operating support in response to the veterinarian's requirements
3. Collect and administer blood and blood products	3.1 Identify blood type; source or collect and store blood under the supervision of a veterinarian 3.2 Prepare and administer blood and blood products under the supervision of a veterinarian 3.3 Recognise and treat adverse reactions to transfusions under the supervision and direction of a veterinarian
4. Provide critical care nursing	4.1 Determine patient short-term positioning, environment, medication, nutrition, nursing care and physical therapy in consultation with veterinarian 4.2 Develop nursing care plan using industry standard terminology and including all relevant aspects of treatment and care in conjunction with veterinarian 4.3 Provide intensive nursing care and monitor the patient according to the nursing care plan 4.4 Consult with the veterinarian regularly on the patient's progress
5. Discharge patient	5.1 Organise transportation for the critical care patient according to practice policies and WHS requirements 5.2 Prepare patient for transport within and from the practice

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	5.3 Provide the client with instructions concerning the patient's care requirements in the home environment 5.4 Collate the patient's history, records and veterinarian's report and present to client 5.5 Advise client on the delivery of referral documentation to their regular practitioner

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Oral communication	• Articulate clear information to clients in relation to the patient
Numeracy	• Accurately measure and record animal's vital signs
Get the work done	• Address irregularities and contingencies in the context of the work role

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMVET507 Provide nursing support for critical care surgery Release 2	ACMVET507 Provide nursing support for critical care surgery Release 1	Minor update in the Application, Performance Evidence and Knowledge Evidence for clarity	Equivalent

Links

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

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

Assessment Requirements for ACMVET507 Provide nursing support for critical care surgery

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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:

- provided appropriate nursing support for critical care surgery for a minimum of three animals, including all of the following procedures:
 - placement and care of catheters, chest and other drains and tracheostomy tubes
 - fluid therapy
 - oxygen therapy
 - monitoring urinary output
 - emergency procedures
 - emergency anaesthetic procedures
 - artificial and assisted respiration
 - administration of life support techniques and medicines
- handled animals gently and calmly and exhibited appropriate care for animals so that stress and discomfort is minimised
- used safe work practices during critical care surgical procedures
- performed the activities outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during a period of at least 240 hours of work in a veterinary practice.

Knowledge Evidence

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

- after care requirements including medication, wound management, nutrition, exercise, physical therapy and environment

- animal anatomy and physiology related to the monitoring of vital signs and the management of animals through critical care nursing and surgical procedures
- vital sign monitoring, including:
 - capillary refill time
 - central venous pressure
 - chest auscultation
 - blood pressure
 - femoral pulse
 - heart rate and rhythm
 - mucous membrane colour
 - pupillary light reflex
 - respiration
 - temperature
- blood gas analysis
- instruments for monitoring vital signs, including:
 - capnographs
 - electrocardiogram (ECG)
 - oesophageal stethoscopes
 - pulse oximeters
 - blood pressure monitoring device
- blood, blood types, blood supply sources and blood product transfusions, transfusion reactions and monitoring of a patient undergoing transfusion, transfusion rates, donor blood collection and management
- clinical signs of shock
- critical care and intensive nursing routines, including:
 - placement and care of catheters, chest and other drains and tracheostomy tubes
 - fluid therapy
 - oxygen therapy
 - monitoring urinary output
 - emergency procedures
 - emergency anaesthetic procedures
 - artificial and assisted respiration
 - administration of life support techniques and medicines
- planes and stages of anaesthesia and anaesthesia equipment
- anaesthetics, including injectable and gaseous compounds, including:
 - pre-emptive analgesia
 - intra-operative analgesia
 - post-operative analgesia
- analgesics administered by the veterinarian or under veterinary supervision, including:
 - non-steroidal anti-inflammatory

- narcotics
- other analgesics and opiate antagonists
- other emergency procedures, including:
 - response to anaesthetic recovery/shock complications with particular attention to transport to recovery ward
 - supervision of anaesthetic monitoring equipment
 - intravenous fluid therapy
- state or territory legislation and regulations relating to the practice of veterinary science, work health and safety and animal welfare in critical care surgery
- requirements for referral documentation
- transportation procedures
- patient care plan requirements, including:
 - animal husbandry
 - environmental conditions
 - environmental enrichment
 - patient hygiene and grooming
 - housing
 - need for analgesia and medication
 - nutrition
 - positioning of patient
 - physical therapy.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - in the workplace or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary surgery where emergency and critical care procedures are regularly performed by veterinarians
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of real animals in need of emergency care
 - equipment, instruments and resources typically available to perform critical care procedures
- specifications:
 - access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - supervision by a registered veterinarian who regularly performs emergency and specialised critical care procedures.

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

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