

Title	Assist with animal surgery as a circulating veterinary nurse		
Level	5	Credits	8

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare self, theatre, and prep room, and assist with preparation of personnel for surgery; assist during surgery and monitor equipment and patient; and carry out post-surgical duties.
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Classification	Animal Care and Handling > Veterinary Nursing
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Available grade	Achieved
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Prerequisites	Unit 5158, <i>Assist the veterinarian with animal anaesthetic and analgesic procedures</i> ; and Unit 21380, <i>Demonstrate and apply knowledge relating to animal facility environmental hygiene</i> ; or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
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Guidance Information

- For credit, evidence must be in accordance with the statutory and industry requirements contained in the following documents.
 Relevant and current National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Welfare and Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards, available at <http://www.maf.govt.nz>, under animal welfare.
 Relevant New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) standards, available from NZVA, PO Box 11-212, Manners Street, Wellington (<http://www.vets.org.nz>) including the current versions of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*), *BESTPRACTICE™ Companion Animal Practice Standards*, and *BESTPRACTICE™ Standards for Companion Animal and Large Animal Combined Module for Mixed Practices*.
 New Zealand Standard NZS 4304:2002 *Management of Healthcare Waste*.
 Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment (HSE) Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.
- Definitions
ASIF/AO Association for the Study of Internal Fixation founded under the name of Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Osteosynthesefragen
Circulating veterinary nurse refers to a non-sterile theatre assistant.
In-house procedures refer to the documented policies and procedures for animal care, handling, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer, consistent with NZVA BESTPRACTICE™ standards.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Prepare self, theatre, and prep room and assist with preparation of personnel for surgery.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Self is prepared for non-sterile role in surgery.
- Range hat, mask, clean gown and hands, shoe covers.
- 1.2 Theatre and prep room are readied according to surgery schedule and standard procedures.
- Range theatre equipment, environment, anaesthetic machine, table, light sources, scavenging systems, ventilation.
- 1.3 Sterile equipment and materials are selected as directed by the surgeon, and outer layer opened in a manner which maintains sterility of contents.
- Range may include but is not limited to – instruments, packs, drapes, swabs, needles, suture materials, drains, scalpel blades.
- 1.4 Assistance is provided to surgeon and surgical assistant, as directed, to prepare for surgery while maintaining sterility of persons, equipment, and materials.

Outcome 2

Assist during surgery and monitor equipment and patient.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Assistance is provided to surgeon, as directed, without breaking sterility.
- Range repositioning patient, repositioning light source, passing sterile instruments and equipment, removing equipment.
- 2.2 Length of operation is timed according to in-house procedures.
- 2.3 Equipment and procedures in use during surgery are monitored and maintained as directed by the surgeon.
- Range may include but is not limited to – anaesthetic machine, gas scavenging units, cardiac and respiratory monitors, intravenous drip, electrocautery equipment, thermo-regulatory equipment, suction, compressed air, ASIF/AO equipment.
- 2.4 Patient is monitored and maintained as directed by the surgeon.
- 2.5 Patient is observed and observations recorded throughout the surgery according to standard procedures.

Outcome 3

Carry out post-surgical duties.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Equipment is counted to ensure consistency of pre-surgery number with post-surgery number.
- Range includes but is not limited to – swabs, instruments, needles.
- 3.2 Operating theatre is cleaned and disinfected to leave surfaces aseptic.
- 3.3 Items are disposed of or sterilised for re-use according to the manufacturer's instructions, current waste management standards and HSE Act requirements.
- Range sharps, suture materials, suture needles, disposable drapes, swabs.
- 3.4 Instruments are disassembled as appropriate and cleaned to remove blood, tissue, and other protein and mineral deposits, and surface is left in a clean, neutral pH condition.
- 3.5 Instruments are assembled, inspected for working condition, and lubricated according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 3.6 Instrument and material packs are packaged and wrapped, and a sterilisation indicator enclosed, according to standard procedures and the type of instrument/material and wrapper.
- 3.7 Equipment is sterilised using method appropriate to type of material from which items are made.
- Range autoclaving, cold chemical sterilisation.

This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	30 June 1996	31 December 2022
Revision	2	16 December 1996	31 December 2022
Revision	3	16 November 1998	31 December 2022
Revision	4	7 June 2000	31 December 2022
Review	5	26 July 2005	31 December 2022
Revision	6	25 June 2007	31 December 2022
Review	7	22 October 2020	31 December 2022

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0228
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.