

<b>Title</b>	<b>Assist with animal surgery as a surgical veterinary nurse</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare self, patient, and equipment, and assist the surgeon to prepare for surgery; and assist the surgeon during surgery, using appropriate surgical techniques and anticipating the surgeon's needs.
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<b>Classification</b>	Animal Care and Handling > Veterinary Nursing
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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<b>Prerequisites</b>	Unit 5156, <i>Assist with animal surgery as a circulating veterinary nurse</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*, *BESTPRACTICE™ Standards for Companion Animal and Large Animal Combined Module for Mixed Practices*.  
 Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.
- Definitions  
*Surgical veterinary nurse* refers to a 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, patient, and equipment, and assist the surgeon to prepare for surgery.

**Performance criteria**

- 1.1 Equipment required for specific procedure being performed is prepared using aseptic technique and according to in-house procedures.
- 1.2 Surgeon is assisted to gown and glove maintaining asepsis.
- 1.3 Surgical scrub, gowning, and gloving are performed for self using aseptic technique.
- 1.4 Patient is draped using aseptic technique and according to type of surgery.

**Outcome 2**

Assist the surgeon during surgery, using appropriate surgical techniques and anticipating the surgeon's needs.

**Performance criteria**

- 2.1 Commonly used surgical instruments are identified, and described in terms of their function.  
  
Range        haemostats, retractors, needle holders, scissors, forceps, towel clamps.
- 2.2 Duties involving handling instruments are anticipated and carried out as directed by the surgeon.  
  
Range        passing, cleansing, assembly as appropriate, tray maintenance, holding, removing.
- 2.3 Duties involving swabbing are carried out as directed by the surgeon, and as anticipated, according to the surgeon's needs.  
  
Range        may include but is not limited to – wet and dry swabbing, irrigation, organ packing, counting swabs, suction.
- 2.4 Access is maintained to surgical field or site using retraction, as directed by the surgeon, and as anticipated, according to the surgeon's needs.
- 2.5 Suturing methods and patterns are described in terms of their use for particular procedures.
- 2.6 Duties involving suturing are carried out as directed by the surgeon.  
  
Range        selection of suture materials, cutting sutures, selection of needles.

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**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

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