

<b>Title</b>	<b>Provide intensive post-operative care for an animal</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 position and transport the anaesthetised patient, and provide immediate post-operative care for the patient.
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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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### Guidance Information

- 1 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 version of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*).  
 Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 *In-house procedures* refer to the documented policies and procedures for animal handling and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer.
- 3 Underpinning Knowledge  
 The following areas of knowledge underpin performance of the elements in this unit standard:  
 Outcome 2  
 Reasons for indwelling catheters  
 Common catheters in use  
 Reason for drains, common types in use  
 Maintenance of intravenous drip lines and cannulae  
 Dangers of excess/deficiency of fluids  
 Normal recovery appearance and behaviour  
 Causes and signs of shock.

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## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Position and transport the recently anaesthetised patient.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 The patient is positioned for transport to ensure it can be observed while being transported.
- 1.2 The patient is transported with minimum stress or trauma and without compromising surgery.
- Range maintain airway, protect wounds, maintain body temperature, maintain indwelling catheters and fluid therapy, monitor vital signs, maintain patient comfort.

### Outcome 2

Provide immediate post-operative care for the patient.

#### Performance criteria

- 2.1 Patient is placed in an environment which is conducive to recovery.
- Range appropriate environmental and body temperature, noise level, easily observed, suitable bedding, suitable positioning.
- 2.2 Post-operative patient is monitored, and vital signs are recorded according to standard procedures.
- Range respiration, pulse, temperature, mucous membranes, fluid intake/output, wound care, apparent pain responses, defecation, urination, vomiting.
- 2.3 Support therapies are maintained according to standard procedures, and recorded according to in-house procedures.
- Range fluid units, indwelling catheters, drains, nursing care (turning of recumbent patient), medications, application of local heat or cold, dressings, bandages.
- 2.4 Complications are recognised, reported immediately to the veterinarian according to in-house procedures, or acted on in the best interests of the animal in the event of the veterinarian being unavailable.
- Range pain, drug reactions, haemorrhage, shock, hypothermia, hyperthermia, vomiting, respiratory obstruction or difficulties, dislodgement of catheters/cannulae/dressings/drains, faecal and urinary abnormalities.

2.5 Actions are recorded according to in-house procedures.

**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
Rollover and Revision	5	25 June 2007	31 December 2022
Review	6	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>.