



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Unit code: H102 34

Superclass: SN

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to assist candidates to gain a range of surgical nursing skills that may be required by a veterinary nurse when working in practice. In particular, it focuses on the role of the veterinary nurse from the time a patient is admitted for a surgical procedure through to pre-operative preparation, intra-operative care including anaesthesia, recovery, post-operative care and discharge. Allied to this are the skills required to prepare for and perform effectively in all aspects of theatre practice including the care and maintenance of instruments, materials and equipment.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Perform theatre practice procedures while behaving in an appropriate manner.
- 2 Prepare for and perform small animal veterinary anaesthetic procedures.
- 3 Plan, implement and evaluate peri-operative nursing support for a range of surgical procedures in dogs, cats and exotics.
- 4 Reflect on personal professional practice and development.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

It is recommended that candidates should have completed the SCQF level 7 Unit *Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1* before starting this Unit and that they are undertaking the level 7 Unit *Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2* concurrently with this Unit.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

General information (cont)

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication, Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* and *Working with Others* at level 5 and *Problem Solving* at level 6, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery

If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Perform theatre practice procedures while behaving in an appropriate manner.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Theatre practice procedures
 - clean operating theatre
 - prepare theatre for use
 - position animals on the operating table
 - final skin preparation
 - assist surgeon to don sterile clothing
 - hand hygiene
 - scrubbing up
 - don sterile clothing
 - open and pass sterile materials
 - assist in the use of equipment
 - instrument layout
 - monitor materials
 - handle instruments and equipment
 - handle tissue
 - dispose of equipment
 - maintain instruments and equipment
 - prepare and package items for sterilisation
 - sterilise surgical equipment and instruments
- ◆ Behaviour
 - personal hygiene
 - theatre clothing
 - movement and speech
 - safety of self and others

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ clean and prepare the operating theatre for use
- ◆ position animals on the operating table and perform final skin preparation
- ◆ assist the surgeon to don sterile clothing and open and pass sterile materials
- ◆ perform effective hand hygiene and scrubbing up procedures
- ◆ wear appropriate theatre attire and don sterile clothing
- ◆ layout, handle and monitor instruments and equipment during surgery
- ◆ assist with the use of equipment and handle tissues
- ◆ maintain instruments and equipment and dispose of used equipment as appropriate
- ◆ prepare and package instruments and materials for sterilisation
- ◆ sterilise surgical equipment and instruments
- ◆ behave in an appropriate manner at all times taking account of personal hygiene, movement, speech and the safety of self and others.

Outcome 2

Prepare for and perform small animal veterinary anaesthetic procedures.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Prepare
 - anaesthetic machine
 - breathing system
 - pollution control system
 - monitoring equipment
 - pharmaceuticals and administration equipment
 - induction materials and equipment
 - patients
 - post-operative nursing environment
- ◆ Perform anaesthetic procedures
 - patient restraint
 - intubation
 - patient transfer
 - monitoring and recording of observations
 - interpretation and reporting of observations
 - monitoring of equipment
 - calculation and administration of gaseous anaesthesia
 - vary gaseous anaesthesia
 - disconnection of patient
 - positioning for recovery
 - extubation
 - monitoring and recording of recovery
 - reporting post-operative progress

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ check and prepare anaesthetic machine, breathing and pollution control systems
- ◆ prepare and use monitoring equipment
- ◆ locate and prepare pharmaceuticals and administration equipment according to veterinary instruction
- ◆ prepare, restrain and transfer the patient
- ◆ prepare materials and equipment for induction and perform intubation
- ◆ calculate, administer and vary gaseous anaesthesia under veterinary direction
- ◆ monitor, record, interpret and report observations
- ◆ monitor equipment during surgical procedures
- ◆ prepare post-operative nursing environment
- ◆ disconnect the patient, position for recovery and extubate as required
- ◆ monitor, record and report recovery and post-operative progress

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Outcome 3

Plan, implement and evaluate peri-operative nursing support for a range of surgical procedures in dogs, cats and exotics.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Plan and evaluate patient care
 - pre-, intra- and post-operative care
 - discharge and home care
- ◆ Peri-operative nursing support
 - admit patients
 - prepare operation sites
 - hand over patients for anaesthesia
 - receive patients from recovery area
 - prepare post-operative nursing environment
 - observe and monitor patients
 - care for surgical wounds
 - maintain fluid intake
 - maintain food intake
 - maintain mobility
 - provide opportunities to exercise
 - manage urination and defecation
 - identify and address signs of pain and stress
 - record observations
 - discharge patient to owners
- ◆ Surgical procedures
 - elective surgery
 - emergency surgery
 - minor procedures
 - major procedures
 - orthopaedic procedures

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ plan and evaluate the pre-, intra-, post-operative and home care of patients for each of the surgical procedures
- ◆ admit patients for a range of surgical procedures and prepare operation sites
- ◆ hand over patients for anaesthesia and receive them from the recovery area
- ◆ prepare post-operative nursing environments suited to the patient and procedure
- ◆ observe, monitor and record post-operative observations
- ◆ identify signs of pain and stress and implement appropriate nursing care
- ◆ care for patients with a range of surgical wounds and wound care needs
- ◆ monitor and maintain food and fluid intake
- ◆ manage and record urination and defecation
- ◆ maintain mobility and provide opportunities to exercise
- ◆ discharge patients and provide discharge information to owners.

Outcome 4

Reflect on personal professional practice and development.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Reflective cycles
- ◆ Professionalism
- ◆ Personal accountability
- ◆ Reviewing personal performance
 - recording
 - evaluating
 - planning for future professional development

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce a report demonstrating the use of a recognised reflective cycle to evaluate personal performance and professionalism, as evidenced in the Nursing Progress Log, and plan five targets for future development

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed to assist candidates to gain a range of surgical nursing skills that may be required by a veterinary nurse when working in practice. In particular, it focuses on the role of the veterinary nurse from the time a patient is admitted for a surgical procedure through to pre-operative preparation, intra-operative care (including anaesthesia), recovery, post-operative care and discharge. Allied to this are the skills required to prepare for and perform effectively in all aspects of theatre practice including the care and maintenance of instruments, materials and equipment.

Although this Unit may be taken on a stand-alone basis by candidates in employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills, it is primarily intended for candidates who are studying towards the HND in Veterinary Nursing and the teaching and learning should be delivered in this context.

Outcome 1

This Outcome is designed to develop the candidate's ability to support the veterinary surgeon in the theatre environment. Candidates will need to wear the correct theatre clothing, maintain high standards of personal hygiene and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner taking account of health and safety. Cleaning and preparing the theatre should include both day-to-day and periodic tasks and should cover both the environment and the equipment and materials that are used in the theatre. Positioning of patients should include the use of positioning aids and the location of the table and lights. The student should be able to undertake the role and perform the duties of the circulating nurse and the scrub nurse as required by the procedure or the directing veterinary surgeon. Particular emphasis must be placed on hand hygiene and scrubbing up. Candidates must be able to perform these to accepted industry standards. When assisting with the use of equipment, this should include diathermy, tourniquets and other ancillary equipment. Cleaning, preparation, packaging and sterilisation of equipment and materials should include drapes, gowns, single instruments and instrument sets.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Outcome 2

Outcome 2 focuses on the support of veterinary anaesthesia. Candidates will be required to prepare materials and equipment for the delivery, maintenance and monitoring of anaesthesia. Anaesthetic equipment should include the anaesthetic machine, breathing systems, scavenging systems, endotracheal tubes, laryngoscope, pulse oximeter, capnograph, echocardiogram and oesophageal stethoscopes. Other materials that should be prepared include consumables, drugs and intravenous fluids. The candidate will also be involved in the preparation, transfer, monitoring and maintenance of anaesthesia for a range of patients throughout their surgical procedures. Maintenance of anaesthesia will require the candidates to calculate, administer and vary gaseous anaesthesia under the direction of a veterinary surgeon. At the end of the procedure, candidates should be able to manage, extubate and aid recovery of the patient.

Outcome 3

This Outcome focuses on the peri-operative nursing care needs of cats, dogs and exotics who have had a range of surgical procedures which will include elective, emergency, minor, major and orthopaedic. Candidates must be able to plan, implement and evaluate the nursing care required by these animals. In doing so they must take account of the species-specific care needs of the individual in line with their health status and the specific procedure. Patient care should begin at the time of admission and continue through recovery to discharge and advice about home care. The candidate will, as a result, be required to communicate effectively with owners on admission and discharge and be able to relate the home care needs of the patient both orally and in a written format.

Nursing care should include the basic functional needs of the patient, including food, fluids, mobility, exercise, urination and defecation, but it should also extend to include pain, stress and surgical wound care. When caring for surgical wounds, candidates must observe wound condition, manage drainage, dressing and bandages, remove drains and closures and prevent patient interference.

Outcome 4

Outcome 4 is designed to encourage candidates to develop a reflective approach to professional practice. Reflective cycles that may be introduced to candidates could include Kolb's cycle of experiential learning or Gibbs's reflective model. These may be used to encourage the candidate to work through aspects of their own professional practice while also taking account of the *Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons: Guide to Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses*. In doing so, candidates can identify their strengths and weaknesses and plan for future professional development.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Although this Unit may be taken on a stand-alone basis by candidates in employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills, it is primarily intended for candidates who are studying towards the HND in Veterinary Nursing and the teaching and learning should be delivered in this context.

Delivery of this Unit should take place in the veterinary practice which is the candidate's work placement. The Unit involves the development of a range of practical skills under the guidance of a Clinical Coach. The Clinical Coach will monitor progress by mentoring, observing and authenticating the candidate's performance.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit could be assessed holistically.

An RCVS approved electronic portfolio, the Nursing Progress Log (NPL), will be used to record progress and achievement of the required competencies. Achievement of this Unit will be based on the successful completion of VN11 and SAVN 13 and 15 of the NPL skills list.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3 details of which are given under Outcome 3.

Outcome 2

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3 details of which are given under Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 1 and 2. All assessments relate to performance evidence. A Nursing Progress Log (NPL) of the competencies being demonstrated within the candidate's placement under the guidance of a Clinical Coach (CC) could be used to gather evidence. Achievement will be based on the successful completion of VN11 and SAVN 13 and 15 of the NPL skills list.

Outcome 4

This Outcome could be assessed in relation to the portfolio of evidence gathered through the NPL with the students completing a report in open-book conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Online and Distance Learning

Completion of this Unit requires the candidate to be working in a veterinary practice.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* at level 5, *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at level 5, *Problem Solving* at level 6 and *Working with Others* at level 5, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The Core Skills component of Oral Communication at level 5 may be developed through interaction with owners and other veterinary staff as candidates will be expected to report intra- and post-operative progress and give discharge advice. Written Communication at level 5 may be demonstrated by the preparation of a written report to meet the Evidence Requirements for Outcome 4.

Candidates may develop skills associated with the *ICT* element of Preparing and Creating Information at level 5 through the collection of evidence using an electronic portfolio and the preparation of a report in an electronic format. All elements of *Problem Solving* at level 6 may be demonstrated through the planning, implementation, evaluation and review of care plans for a range of patients with varying care needs. Finally the skills associated with *Working with Others* at level 5 are implicit in the nature of this Unit as candidates are expected to be an effective member of the veterinary team and to work under the direction of veterinary staff.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

This Unit forms part of the HNC/D Veterinary Nursing.

This Unit is designed to assist you to gain a range of surgical nursing skills that may be required by a veterinary nurse when working in practice. In particular, it focuses on the role of the veterinary nurse from the time a patient is admitted for a surgical procedure through to pre-operative preparation, intra-operative care including anaesthesia, recovery, post-operative care and discharge. Allied to this are the skills required to prepare for and perform effectively in all aspects of theatre practice including the care and maintenance of instruments, materials and equipment.

It would be beneficial for you to have completed some of the SCQF level 7 Units and started some of the SCQF level 8 Units in the HND Veterinary Nursing framework, and to have some experience of working in a veterinary practice before undertaking this Unit.

This Unit consists of four learning Outcomes:

Outcome 1

This Outcome is designed to develop your ability to support the veterinary surgeon in the theatre environment. You will need to wear the correct theatre clothing, maintain high standards of personal hygiene and conduct yourself in an appropriate manner taking account of health and safety. Practical tasks will include cleaning and preparing the theatre, preparing the veterinary team and patient and assisting during surgical procedures. After surgery you will be required to clean, prepare, package and sterilise equipment and materials

Outcome 2

This focuses on developing your ability to support veterinary anaesthesia. You will be required to prepare for and assist in the induction, maintenance and cessation of anaesthesia for a range of patients. This will include the preparation of equipment, materials, pharmaceuticals, consumables and the patient. You will need to be familiar with anaesthetic equipment including anaesthetic machines and breathing systems and be able to calculate and administer gaseous anaesthesia effectively under the direction of a veterinary surgeon. You will also be required to prepare and use a range of monitoring equipment effectively.

Outcome 3

Outcome 3 is focused on the pre-, intra- and post-operative care needs of patients who have been admitted for a range of surgical procedures. You will be involved in all aspects of patient care from planning through to implementation and evaluation. You will be required to meet the basic care needs of patients including observation, food and fluid intake, mobility, exercise, urination and defecation. However, you will also need to extend your skills to include the assessment of pain and stress and surgical wound care. As you are involved in these cases from admission to discharge, you will have to communicate with owners and give them specific home care advice through both written and verbal means.

General information for candidates (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3

Outcome 4

This Outcome gives you the opportunity to reflect on your practical experience and through application of a reflective cycle, identify your strengths and weaknesses in order to plan your future development. Continuing professional development is integral to the role of the veterinary nurse and this Outcome will give you the framework to evaluate your abilities and develop your future.

Assessment

In order to complete this Unit successfully you will be assessed on your practical skills and be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance. Evidence of this will be gathered through the completion of an electronic portfolio charting the skills you have participated in and the experience you have gathered while in the practice placement under the guidance of a Clinical Coach. Achievement will be based on the successful completion of VN11 and SAVN 13 and 15 of the NPL skills list. You will also be required to prepare a reflective report in open-book conditions.