
Manual:	Policies and Procedures	Ref. No.:	BST_SDE_4304_P
Division:	Basic Surgical Training and Skills	Issue Date:	March 2006
Subject:	CARE OF THE CRITICALLY ILL SURGICAL PATIENT (CCRISP) SKILLS - COURSE DESCRIPTION	Review Date:	March 2009
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1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides an outline of the Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) skills course, including course objectives, application eligibility, successful completion criteria and course evaluation.

2.0 KEY DIRECTION STATEMENT

As a fellowship based organisation, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons commits to ensuring the highest standard of safe and comprehensive surgical care for the community we serve through excellence in surgical education, training, professional development and support.

3.0 VALUES

- Service and Professionalism
 - performing to and upholding the highest standards
- Integrity
 - upholding professional values
- Respect and Compassion
 - being sympathetic and empathetic
- Commitment and Diligence
 - being dedicated, doing one's best to deliver
- Collaboration and Teamwork
 - working together to achieve the best outcome

4.0 BACKGROUND

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) introduced the Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) program in 2000 as a mandatory requirement for Basic Surgical Trainees under the Basic Surgical Training Program. The program maintains strong links to the CCrISP Steering Group of the Royal College of Surgeons of England with ongoing collaboration in regard to curriculum development, course improvement and Instructor exchange.

The following principles are reinforced throughout the course:

- Accept responsibility for patient management
- Adopt a systematic approach to patient assessment
- Appreciate that complications tend to cascade rapidly
- Anticipate and prevent complications with simple, timely actions
- Apply effective communication skills to facilitate patient care
- Ask for appropriate assistance in a timely manner

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5.0 BODY OF POLICY

5.1 Course objectives

- Develop the theoretical basis and practical skills necessary to manage the critically ill surgical patient
- Be able to assess critically ill patients accurately and appreciate the value of a system of assessment for the critically ill
- Understand the subtlety, variety of presentation of critical illness and the methods available for improving detection
- Understand the importance of a plan of action in order to achieve clinical progress, accurate diagnosis and early definitive treatment. Be able to formulate a plan of action and involve appropriate assistance in a timely manner
- Appreciate that complications tend to occur in a cascade and realise that prevention of complications is fundamental to successful outcome
- Be aware of the support facilities available and interact with nursing staff, other surgeons and intensivists/ anaesthetists, being aware, in particular, of the surgeon's role in the delivery of multidisciplinary care to the critically ill
- Understand the requirements of the patient and their relatives during critical illness and be able to inform and support both appropriately

5.3 Eligibility

Application eligibility of qualified medical practitioners' attendance of a CCRISP course:

- Mandatory: Basic Surgical Trainees (BSTs) in their first year of training International Medical Graduates (IMG) applying for Advanced Surgical Training (AST)
- Oral and Maxillofacial (OMF) Trainee applicants of Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS)
- Non BSTs applicants, from Anaesthesia, Intensive Care, Emergency Medicine and General Practice
- BSTs on interrupted training are not eligible to attend

The Department of Skills Training manages the application and allocation process to the CCRISP course program (see *Policies on Skills Courses Participant Management*).

5.4 Accreditation

- The CCRISP course meets the requirements of the Educational Standards for Skills Courses Conducted or Endorsed by RACS (*Refer to policy on Educational Standards for Skills Courses Conducted or Endorsed by RACS*).

5.5 Assessment

A candidate's progress throughout the course is guided by

- regular formative feedback from the Faculty
- the assigned mentor, who discusses the participants performance and course related issues
- confidential feedback on personal attributes that are observed but not formally graded

For all Surgical Trainees completing the course as a mandatory requirement there is an opportunity for the Faculty to provide feedback to the Trainees' Supervisor of Surgical Training via the Feedback Form (see *Policy on Skills Courses: Basic Surgical trainees Feedback to Surgical Supervisors*).

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5.6 Successful Completion Criteria

Requirements

- i Completion of the pre-course Multiple Choice Questionnaire (MCQ) upon registration.
- ii Full attendance at all components of the course
- iii Demonstration of appropriate attitude, enthusiasm, adequate knowledge, skills and clinical insight throughout the course
- iv Demonstration of effective assessment and management skills using the CCRISP principles which is formally examined during the practical clinical scenario (final day) assessment

A certificate is provided upon successful completion of the CCRISP course.

5.7 Unsuccessful/Incomplete Participants

Incomplete participants: Those candidates who fail to attend/complete all components of the course (5.6 i-ii) are considered incomplete and will be counseled and required to attend/complete missed components. This will be at no cost to the candidate.

Failed candidates: Those who fail the practical clinical scenario will be counselled for a non-satisfactory performance and required to attend a full CCRISP course at a later date at the candidates cost.

5.8 Evaluation

The participants conduct a post course evaluation survey at the completion of each day. The survey seeks feedback on course content, methodology, learning experiences and outcomes. This information assists the CCRISP committee to continually improve course deliverables.

Approver Director
Authoriser Council