1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
This policy outlines the development and history of the Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST) programme detailing the EMST course objectives, eligibility to apply, assessment criteria and 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
In the early 1980’s the National Road Trauma Committee’s focus on the prevention of injury, related to road trauma, identified that initial medical management of the injured patient can significantly affect the mortality or degree of disability suffered. Further, the need for a standardised approach to the management of the severely injured was deemed essential in the provision of a high standard of medical care.

In the late 1980s, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) sought permission from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to adapt and use the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®) training programme in Australia and New Zealand. The first Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST) course was held in Australia in December 1988. The broad aim of the EMST programme was to provide a minimum uniform standard of early medical care to the injured.

Throughout its development over the last decade, the EMST program has maintained its links to the Trauma Committee of RACS and Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®) a sub committee of the ACS Trauma Committee. A Memorandum of Understanding between RACS and ACS was signed in 1995.

In 1993 an initial course was conducted in Papua New Guinea and subsequent courses have been held each year. In 2001 the course was conducted in Fiji. These outreach programmes are conducted under the auspices of the EMST programmes with local instructors trained in Australia.

The course is available to all doctors who are involved in early assessment and management of serious injury. The basis of the course is to teach a system of care after injury and to provide the participant with the basic knowledge necessary to:

1. Assess the patient’s condition rapidly and accurately.
2. Resuscitate and stabilize the patient according to priority.
3. Determine if the patient's needs exceed the facility's capabilities.
4. Arrange safe transfer to definitive care as appropriate
5. Assure that optimum care is provided.

5.0 BODY OF POLICY

5.1 Mission

“To promote the highest standard of initial care for injured patients through a multidisciplinary trauma education programme”.

5.2 Course Objectives:

After completing the EMST course, a participant will be able to:
- Demonstrate concepts and principles of primary and secondary patient assessment
- Initiate resuscitation and definitive care of injured patients
- Demonstrate skills used in initial assessment and management
- Establish management for treatment and transfer of injured patients

5.3 Eligibility

Application eligibility of qualified medical practitioners’ attendance of an EMST course:
- Mandatory: Basic Surgical Trainees (BSTs) within the first two years of training
- Anaesthetists Trainees applicants of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists

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

5.4 Accreditation

- The EMST course meets the requirements of the Educational Standards for Skills Courses Conducted or Endorsed by RACS (see Policy - Educational Standards for Skills Courses Conducted or Endorsed by RACS)

5.5 EMST Programme Structure

To assist the central management of the programme the Australasian area is divided into five regions:-
- Southern-Victoria and Tasmania
- Eastern-New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory
- Western-South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australian
- Northern-Queensland
- New Zealand

The Regional Director and Regional Coordinator are responsible for the conduct of courses in their respective regions.

5.6 Assessment

Participants on the course are continuously assessed and are required to attend all components of the course. Course assessment includes assessment of participant’s core knowledge, clinical insight and enthusiasm, initial assessment scenario, formal assessment of the final day and the Multiple Choice
Questionnaire (MCQ). Overall performance of participants is reviewed by the whole Faculty at the completion of the course.

For all surgical trainees completing the course as a mandatory requirement the Faculty have the ability to provide feedback to the Trainees’ Surgical Training Supervisor via the Feedback Form (Skills Course Assessment of Basic Surgical Trainees-Feedback to Surgical Supervisors Policy).

5.7 Successful Completion Criteria

In order to successfully complete the course the participant must:-

a. Complete the pre-course MCQ test
b. Attend all lectures and skill stations.
c. Complete each skill station in accordance with requirements outlined in the Course manual.
d. Successfully complete the Initial Assessment Skill Station
e. Achieve a minimum score of 80% in the post course MCQ test

Upon satisfactory completion of the course an EMST certificate is issued to the candidate

Successful completion of an EMST course does not equate with ongoing competency of care of a patient with severe trauma.

Four years after completion of an EMST course the committee recommends that a refresher or renewal provider EMST course is undertaken. This is not necessary for Faculty who instruct on one EMST course annually.

5.8 Participant Status

- Successful, Unsuccessful and Remedial Participants

5.8.1 Successful Participant

Completed components a-e (above)

5.8.2 Unsuccessful Participant

The participant who does not attend a practical skills station during a provider course may be given the opportunity to repeat the station during the course or alternatively to attend the missed portion/s at another course scheduled within 3 months of the original.

5.8.3 Remedial Participant

a. Participants who do not successfully complete the Initial Assessment station may be given a second opportunity before the conclusion of the course.
b. Participants who successfully complete all components of the course but achieve a post course MCQ score below 80% may retake the test within 3 months of the original course under supervision.

5.8.4 Failure to complete the course

Candidates who have failed the Initial Assessment (2nd attempt) and not obtained a 80% score for the post course MCQ Test by the end of the course will not be eligible for further remediation.

5.8.5 Options for Unsuccessful Candidates
Depending on the Faculty and Director's assessments of the participant's overall performance, the unsuccessful candidate may be recommended to attend another provider or a refresher course at their own cost. The EMST office will attempt to re-allocate these candidates to a course without delay.

### POLICIES FOR INCOMPLETE OR REMEDIAL PARTICIPANT SCENARIOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is absent for a significant</td>
<td>Re-attend this lecture at another course</td>
<td>Unsuccessful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>component of a lecture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not participate/misses a</td>
<td>Remedial opportunity provided during the course or attend this skill</td>
<td>Unsuccessful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skill station eg surgical skills</td>
<td>station at another course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance at</td>
<td>Faculty to review performance at their discretion and request the</td>
<td>Remedial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill Station</td>
<td>candidate to attend skill station at a following course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fails post MCQ</td>
<td>Resit under supervision at another course</td>
<td>Remedial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fails Initial Assessment</td>
<td>Resit IA and is assessed by a different Faculty member at that course</td>
<td>Remedial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) Fails second attempt at Initial Assessment</td>
<td>Attends another course at candidate’s expense</td>
<td>Failed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Fails second attempt MCQ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 5.9 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 EMST Committee to continually improve course deliverables.

**Approver**  
Director

**Authoriser**  
Executive Committee