



# AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC SURGEONS

Basic Surgical Skills Education & Training course (BSSET)



## **Introduction**

The Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) Basic Surgical Skills Education & Training course (BSSET) has been designed to provide a professional, accessible and supportive method of engaging health professionals in basic surgical skills training. Following the BSSET course, it is expected that graduates will be confident and proficient foot and ankle surgical assistants. In addition to its stand-alone merit, the course operates as one module within the Podiatric Surgical Training Program.

Fulfilling the course requirements will result in certification by the College of successful completion of the BSSET. Prior to assisting in theatre, graduates will need to be accredited by the hospital in which they will be assisting a Podiatric Surgeon (further details below).

For podiatrists wanting to apply for a training position with the ACPS, the BSSET course must be successfully completed.

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the principles of infection control and the concept of barriers in surgery;
2. Discuss the different types of common surgical instruments, their construction, function, safe and appropriate use, and maintenance;
3. Describe the indications contraindications and types of local anaesthetics used by a podiatrist and podiatric surgeon in the peri-operative period;
4. Demonstrate appropriate suturing and knot tying skills on a delicate and heavy/fascial tissue model;
5. Describe the principles, applications and practice of electrosurgical techniques;
6. Describe the principles and instrumentation of minimal access surgery;
7. Discuss the principles of wound assessment and management in a podiatric context; and
8. Describe the principles of immobilisation in the clinical and surgical setting.

## **Prerequisites**

The course is open to all health professionals with an interest in foot and ankle surgery, including affiliate members of the ACPS and/or Stage 1 ACPS registrars.

If not completed prior to entry, ACPS registrars must have completed the BSSET within the first year of training.

## **Estimated Hours**

It is anticipated that to complete the BSSET course participants may require approximately 42 hours of commitment including self-directed study and learning. This is broken down into:

- 18 hours online/readings;
- 4 hours practical session (a single or multiple sessions with a Fellow to review suturing skills using the suture trainer);
- 16 hours theatre observation (4 x 4 hour sessions); and
- 2 x 2 hour reflective learning summary.

## **Timeframe**

The course has been designed for participants to complete the modules in their own time, however completion within a 12-month period is required.

\*Stage 1 ACPS Registrars may complete the course within the first 12 months of training if not completed prior to acceptance.

## **Teaching method**

The BSSET course uses a blended design to teaching, which includes a combination of online learning, face to face observations and hands-on guided simulation and practical experiences.

## **Materials**

Course participants will be required to purchase a suture trainer pack consisting of the items listed below.

- Skin Pad(s) with multi layers
- Sutures
- Scalpel
- Dissecting forceps
- Scissors
- Needle holder

These items can be purchased as a pack at the suggested online stores below. Many such packs are available online and from medical supply companies, participants may purchase alternative packs containing the essential items if they wish.

- <http://limbsandthings.com/au/our-products/details/hands-on-kit>
- <http://www.mentone-educational.com.au/life-form-interactive-suture-trainers>

It is strongly recommended that the following text book is purchased:

- *Thomson T. Assisting at podiatric surgery: A guide for Podiatric Surgical Students and Podiatric Theatre Assistants. 1st Edition. (2002) Elsevier, London.*

### **Surgical observations**

To organise surgical observations, and complete the practical assessments, course participants are advised to contact the College Secretary (podiatric.surgeons@rsm.com.au) for a list of Fellows associated with the BSSET course.

Completion of the BSSET does not permit an immediate entitlement to assist a Podiatric Surgeon in theatre. Participants who have completed the course will need to be certified and accredited by the hospital in which the Podiatric Surgeon works. For more information about the accreditation process, please contact the Podiatric Surgeon who you will be assisting in theatre.

### **Insurance for assisting in surgery**

To observe and/or assist a Podiatric surgeon in theatre, participants will need to obtain insurance. Please contact your insurer to determine if your policy covers you during observation and/or assisting in surgery.

### **Further information**

For my details about the BSSET, please contact the ACPS Education Officer: edofficer@acps.edu.au