**Application of Schedule 3 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 to student veterinary nurse training**

Enrolled student veterinary nurses must always work under the supervision of qualified veterinary staff who must be veterinary surgeons or registered/listed veterinary nurses. Students may provide nursing care for animals under the direction of the veterinary surgeon in charge of the case and under the supervision of other qualified members of the veterinary team.

Student veterinary nurses may also provide medical treatments (such as administering medicines including I/M and I/V injections) and undertake minor surgical procedures (such as the suturing of a minor wound) for animals. This is a special dispensation afforded to veterinary nurses under Schedule 3. Student veterinary nurses must ALWAYS be directly supervised by a veterinary nurse or a registered/listed veterinary nurse when undertaking such work. **We kindly ask the practice to take this into consideration particularly if students are to be involved in night duties where they may be working alone.**

Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (Schedule 3 Amendment) Order 2002, the privilege of giving medical treatment and carrying out minor surgery, not involving entry into a body cavity is given to:

1. Listed/registered veterinary nurses under the direction of their veterinary surgeon employer to animals under their employer’s care. The directing veterinary surgeon must be satisfied that the veterinary nurse is qualified to carry out the medical treatment or minor surgery.
2. Student nurses under the direction of their veterinary surgeon employer to animals under their employer’s care. In addition medical treatment or minor surgery MUST be supervised by a veterinary surgeon or listed veterinary nurse and in the case of minor surgery the supervision must be direct, continuous and personal. The medical treatment or minor surgery must be given in the course of the student’s training.

A veterinary nurse or student veterinary nurse is not entitled independently to undertake either medical treatment or minor surgery.

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| **Student veterinary nurses can only undertake schedule 3 work as part of their official university training time in a training practice. They must NOT undertake schedule 3 work if they are working at a practice that is not a TP, or when working in their own time as a locum or outside of any official placement.** |