**NSW Health** 

# Emergency Care Assessment and Treatment

Education and RPL Guide

heti.nsw.gov.au





# Contents

1.	Intro	oduction	3					
2.	Dev	eloping the Education and RPL Guide	3					
3.	Sco	Scope of Practice						
4.	Kno	wledge, Skills and Training Requirements	4					
	4.1	Education and training required for all ECAT Protocols	5					
	4.2	Additional education and training related to the Acute Behavioural Disturbance Protocol	6					
	4.3	Education and training related to Peripheral Cannulation and Venepuncture	6					
	4.4	Education and training specific to shaded portions of the ECAT protocols	6					
		4.4.1 Pink shading / diamond – RPL available	6					
		4.4.2 Blue shading / triangle – RPL available	6					
5.	Rec	ognition of Prior Learning Process	7					
	5.1	Learning Pathway	7					
	5.2	RPL Mapping	9					
		5.2.1 Nursing in Emergency Care Settings Module	9					
		5.2.2 Acute Behavioural Disturbance ECAT Protocol	9					
		5.2.3 Intravenous cannulation and pathology	9					
		5.2.4 Pink shaded/diamond portions of the ECAT Protocols	9					
		5.2.5 Blue shaded/triangle portions of the ECAT Protocols	10					
6. E	CAT P	rotocol Sections	11					
	6.1	Mapped curriculum evidence summary table	12					
	6.2	History Taking	13					
	6.3	Recognition of Signs and Symptoms	13					
	6.4	Red Flags	14					
	6.5	Clinical Assessment and Specified Interventions	15					
	6.6	Focused Assessments	15					
	6.7	Interventions	16					
	6.8	Medications	17					
7. Re	eferen	ces	18					

## 1. Introduction

Emergency Care Assessment and Treatment (ECAT) is a state-wide, co-designed program that standardises nurse-initiated emergency care, reduces unwarranted clinical variation and improves patient and staff experience. The ECAT program is supported by a standardised education pathway and includes a set of clinical protocols to enable nurses to initiate emergency care according to their scope of practice. The program supports the consistent delivery of timely care for patients across rural, regional, and metropolitan emergency care settings. The ECAT Education and RPL Guide should be read in conjunction with the NSW Health Policy Directive The Use of Emergency Care Assessment and Treatment (ECAT) Protocols (PD2023\_039). The Policy Directive outlines the roles, responsibilities and processes related to the use of the ECAT Protocols.

The ECAT program builds on existing nurse-initiated guidelines, standing orders and protocols. The ECAT Education and RPL Guide supports the transition of the existing nursing workforce to use the ECAT Protocols by recognising and documenting prior learning. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is the formal acknowledgement and assessment of evidence of a nurse's skills, knowledge and capabilities obtained through prior learning (Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC), 2022). The ECAT Education and RPL Guide is informed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board (NMBA) Standards of Practice (NMBA, 2017; NMBA, 2016) and current NSW nursing educational programs. All enrolled or registered nurses are regulated by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and must have completed an approved course and qualify to meet the NMBA registration requirements (AHPRA n.d.).

# 2. Developing the Education and RPL Guide

The ECAT Education and RPL Guide was developed following an extensive review of the learning outcomes of current state-wide educational programs (as at July 2023) for emergency nurses and an in-depth analysis of the knowledge, skills and training required to use the ECAT Protocols.

The following documents underpinned the development of the ECAT Education and RPL Guide:

- NMBA Registered Nurse Standards for Practice
- NMBA Enrolled Nurse Standards for Practice
- NMBA Code of Conduct for Nurses
- International Council of Nurses Code of Ethics
- NMBA Decision-Making Framework for Nursing and Midwifery
- College of Emergency Nursing Australia (CENA) Practice Standards for the Specialist Emergency
  Nurse
- NSW Health Emergency Nurse Capability Framework

Section 6 details the evidence, programs and learning packages that were used to inform the RPL mapping (see section 6 <u>Programs and Evidence Used to Inform RPL Mapping</u>).

# 3. Scope of Practice

As regulated health professionals, nurses are responsible and accountable for ensuring they practice safely and have the capability for practice (NMBA, 2017; NMBA, 2016). The scope of practice of an individual is that which they are educated, authorised and competent to perform (NMBA, 2016,). An individual's scope of practice is also determined by the employer's requirements (position description) to perform their role. A nurse must decide whether a task is within their scope of practice, whether they are the most appropriate person to perform that task, and whether they have been supported by their organisation to perform that task. This is consistent with the NMBA decision making framework (NMBA, 2020).

The ECAT Protocols cover a wide range of adult and paediatric emergency presentations, and a nurse must consider their individual scope of practice when using the protocols. Every nurse is responsible for knowing which parts of the protocols are within their scope of practice.

ECAT Protocols can be used by both enrolled and registered nurses, however enrolled nurses:

- Must only use the unshaded portions of the ECAT Protocols under the supervision of a registered nurse
- Can only undertake unshaded intravenous cannulation and pathology collection if they have completed the Peripheral Intravenous Access for Adult and Paediatrics learning package or received RPL.
- Cannot complete shaded portions of the ECAT Protocols.
- Are not authorised to initiate any medications (including unshaded medications) under protocol.
- Can administer medications ordered under protocol by an authorised registered nurse.

# 4. Knowledge, Skills and Training Requirements

The following section outlines the knowledge, skills and training that is required to use the ECAT Protocols and should be read in conjunction with the NSW Health Policy Directive The Use of Emergency Care Assessment and Treatment (ECAT) Protocols.

The ECAT Protocols include unshaded, pink shaded/diamond and blue shaded/triangle portions to indicate where different levels of knowledge, training and skills are required to initiate interventions and investigations. To assist nurses with colour vision deficiency, shaded portions also include a shape symbol (diamond or triangle).

Prior to using the unshaded portions of the ECAT Protocols, registered and enrolled nurses must have completed the education outlined in section 4.1 Education and training required for all ECAT Protocols.

Registered nurses must complete additional education and training to use the shaded portions of the ECAT Protocols.

## 4.1 Education and training required for all ECAT Protocols

Prior to using the ECAT Protocols registered and enrolled nurses **must have** completed the following education and training appropriate for their patient cohort:

- Courses targeted as part of the State-wide Mandatory Training Policy (red flagged in My Health Learning) and courses targeted by Local Health District Chief Executives (blue flagged in My Health Learning); and
- Learning Pathway Between the Flags: Recognise and Respond to Deterioration in Adult Patients (Nursing)\*; and/or
- 3. Learning Pathway Between the Flags: Recognise and Respond to Deterioration in Paediatric Patients (Nursing)\*.
- 4. Nursing in Emergency Care Settings Module

The Nursing in Emergency Care Settings module includes:

- Introduction to emergency nursing (including cognitive bias and situational awareness)
- Building the full clinical picture (including red flags)
- Providing care to patients in emergency care settings
- Communication in the emergency care environment

5. ECAT - Introduction to Protocols Module

The ECAT – Introduction to Protocols module includes:

- Safety and governance principles in the context of ECAT
- Practicing safe, appropriate, and responsive quality nursing (scope of practice)
- ECAT Protocol structure
- Using the ECAT Protocols (identify ECAT protocol, initiate care, re-assess, progress)
- Clinical reasoning and decision making in context of ECAT (cognitive bias and situational awareness)
- Communicating when using the ECAT Protocols

<sup>\*</sup>Or previous versions of Between the Flags education.

# 4.2. Additional education and training related to the Acute Behavioural Disturbance Protocol

The Acute Behavioural Disturbance ECAT Protocol can only be used by nurses who have completed the NSW Health Emergency Department Violence Prevention Management Learning Pathway.

# 4.3. Education and training related to Peripheral Cannulation and Venepuncture

Registered and enrolled nurses may only perform peripheral cannulation and venepuncture and request pathology included within an ECAT Protocol if they have completed the NSW Health course Peripheral Intravenous Access for Adults and Paediatrics or have demonstrated relevant recognition of prior learning.

See section 5 for Recognition of Prior Learning.

# 4.4 Education and training specific to shaded portions of the ECAT protocols

#### 4.4.1 Pink shading / diamond – RPL available

Only registered nurses can use the pink shaded/ diamond portions of the ECAT Protocols, and only once they have successfully completed the 'Transition to Specialty Emergency Practice' program or have demonstrated relevant recognition of prior learning.

See section 5 for Recognition of Prior Learning.

#### 4.4.2 Blue shading / triangle – RPL available

Blue shaded/triangle portions of the protocols cover a variety of interventions and investigations. Only registered nurses can use the blue shaded/triangle portions of the ECAT Protocols, and only the specific intervention/investigation where they have successfully completed the relevant education and training component or have demonstrated relevant recognition of prior learning.

See section 5 for Recognition of Prior Learning.

# 5. Recognition of Prior Learning Process

Prior to transitioning to the ECAT Protocols, assessment of RPL must be undertaken locally by members of nursing leadership teams. It is the responsibility of the nurse to provide evidence of prior education and training for this assessment to be completed. RPL must be uploaded into My Health Learning via the ECAT Learning Pathway by the member/s of the nursing leadership team assigning the RPL.

Nurses awarding RPL are responsible for ensuring that locally adapted programs meet the core components of knowledge and skills required as per the curriculum evidence table (Table 6.1).

### 5.1 Learning Pathway

A My Health Learning Pathway has been developed to support a state-wide approach for recognition of prior learning. The 'ECAT Learning Pathway' consists of the identified educational components relevant to the ECAT Protocols and where applicable, the RPL that can be applied for each component. The individual components can be completed incrementally as the nurse gains more knowledge, skill, and experience.

A record of completion will be available for each component of the ECAT Learning Pathway. A final record of completion will be available once all components of the ECAT Learning Pathway have been completed.

Table 1 outlines the components of the ECAT Learning Pathway, who is able to complete each component, if shading applies to a particular component, and whether RPL is available for a particular component. A detailed breakdown of RPL is available in section 5.2 RPL Mapping.

Table 1. ECAT Learning Pathway

	ECAT Learning Path	ECAT Learning Pathway						
Com	ponent	Available to	Shading	RPL available				
Educ	ation and training required for all ECAT Protocols							
1	Courses targeted as part of the State-wide Mandatory Training Policy (red flagged in My Health Learning) and courses targeted by Local Health District Chief Executives (blue flagged in My Health Learning)	Enrolled and registered nurses	n/a	n/a				
2	Between the Flags Education							
2.1	Between the Flags: Recognise and Respond to Deterioration in Adult Patients (Nursing) learning pathway	Enrolled and registered nurses	n/a	n/a				
2.2	Between the Flags: Recognise and Respond to Deterioration in Paediatric Patients (Nursing) learning pathway	Enrolled and registered nurses	n/a	n/a				
3	Nursing in Emergency Care Settings Module	Enrolled and registered nurses	n/a	No				
4	ECAT Introduction to Protocols Module	Enrolled and registered nurses	n/a	No				
Addi	tional education and training related to the Acute Behaviou	ral Disturbance Prot	ocol					
5	NSW Health Emergency Department Violence Prevention Management (EDVPM) Learning Pathway	Enrolled and registered nurses	n/a	No				
Educ	ation and training related to Peripheral Cannulation and Ve	nepuncture						
6	Intravenous cannulation and pathology	Enrolled and registered nurses	Unshaded	Yes				
Educ	ation and training specific to shaded portions of the ECAT p	protocols						
7	Pink shaded/diamond medications and interventions	Registered nurses	Pink/ diamond	Yes				
8	Intraosseous (IO) access	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				
9	Splinting and slings	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				
10	Nurse initiated x-ray requests	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				
11	Wound closure, including local anaesthetics	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				
12	Nitrous Oxide administration	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				
13	Adult Advanced Life Support level 1 interventions and/or medications	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				
14	Adult Advanced Life Support level 2 medications	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				
15	Paediatric Advanced Life Support interventions and/or medications	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				
16	Nurse administered thrombolysis	Registered nurses	Blue/ triangle	Yes				

## 5.2 RPL Mapping

This section maps the RPL available for the ECAT Protocols.

#### 5.2.1 Acute Behavioural Disturbance ECAT Protocol

Evidence of **the** following learning pathway is sufficient RPL for Emergency Department Violence Prevention Management and will allow a nurse to use the Acute Behavioural Disturbance ECAT Protocol:

Protocol	Learning Program/Package
Acute Behavioural Disturbance ECAT Protocol	NSW Health Emergency Department Violence Prevention Management (EDVPM)

#### 5.2.2 Intravenous cannulation and pathology

Evidence of **one** of the following learning programs/packages is sufficient RPL for intravenous cannulation and pathology:

Investigation/Intervention	Learning Program/Package
	Peripheral Intravenous Access for Adult and Paediatrics
Intravenous cannulation and pathology	Local education and training package for peripheral intravenous access for adult
	Local education and training package for peripheral intravenous access for paediatrics

#### 5.2.3 Pink shaded/diamond portions of the ECAT Protocols

Pink shaded/diamond portions of the ECAT Protocols reflect clinical skills that require further developed patient assessment, critical thinking, and decision-making skills for an undifferentiated patient in emergency care settings.

In addition to completing a Bachelor of Nursing degree, evidence of **one** of the following learning programs/packages is sufficient RPL for the pink shaded/diamond portions of the ECAT Protocols.

Protocol Portions	Learning Program/Package			
	Transition to Practice Emergency Nursing Program			
Pink shaded/diamond	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)			
	First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)			

#### 5.2.4 Blue shaded/triangle portions of the ECAT Protocols

Blue shaded/triangle portions of the protocols cover a variety of interventions and investigations. Blue shaded/triangle investigations and interventions represent areas where a nurse has developed specific skills, completed specific education, and increased their scope of practice.

In addition to completing a Bachelor of Nursing degree, evidence of one of the following learning programs/packages is required to receive RPL for that particular blue shaded/triangle investigation/intervention.

Investigation/Intervention	Learning Program/Package
	Local IO access education and training package
Intraosseous (IO) access	Adult advanced life support training programs (program dependent)
	Paediatric advanced life support training programs (program dependent)
Culinting and alings	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)
Splinting and slings	Local splinting and slings education and/or training package
Ni	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)
Nurse initiated x-ray	Local nurse-initiated x-ray education and training package
Wound closure, including local anaesthetics	Local wound closure education and training package
Nitrous Oxide administration	Local nitrous oxide education and training package
	Adult Advanced Life Support level 1
Adult Advanced Life Support level 1	Adult Advanced Life Support level 2
interventions and/or medications	First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)
	Local Adult Advanced Life Support education and training package
	Adult Advanced Life Support level 2
Adult Advanced Life Support level 2 medications	First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)
medications	Local Adult Advanced Life Support education and training package
	Paediatric Advanced Life Support
Paediatric Advanced Life Support	First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)
interventions and/or medications	Local Paediatric Advanced Life Support education and training package
Nurse administered thrombolysis	Education and training according to NSW Health Policy Directive Nurse Administered Thrombolysis for ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) (PD2022_055)

# 6. ECAT Protocol Sections

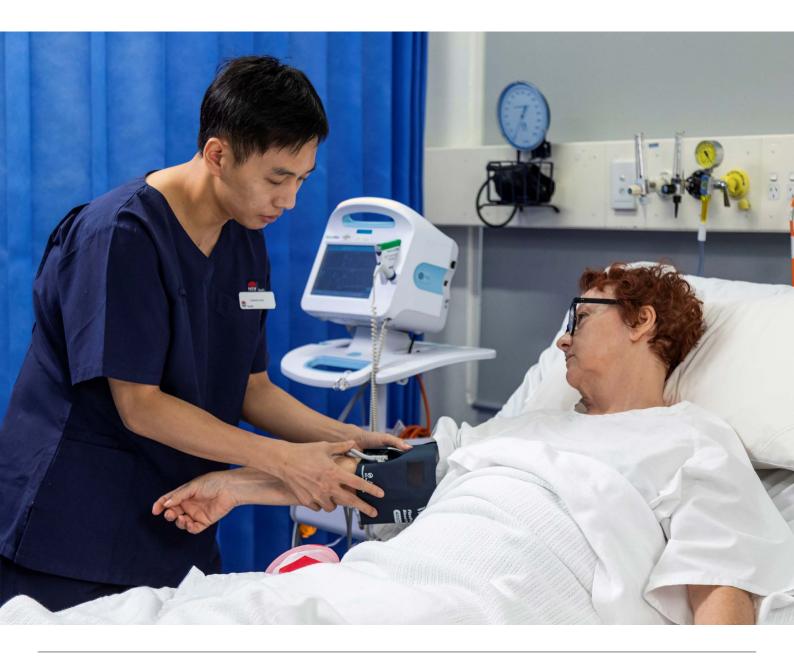
All ECAT Protocols have a standardised format. The knowledge and skills requirements for each section of the ECAT Protocols have been mapped against current state-wide nursing education programs to support RPL (see <u>Appendix 1</u>). The sections include:

- · History prompts
- Signs and symptoms
- · Red flags
- Clinical assessment and specified intervention (A-G)
- Focused assessments. The focused assessments have been developed in a standard format (i.e look, listen, feel, move) and provide guidance to support foundational assessment skills.
- Interventions and diagnostics
- Medications

The following section provides additional background information and details the evidence and programs that were used to inform the RPL mapping.



Section 5 <u>Recognition of Prior Learning</u> must be used by nursing leadership teams when assessing RPL.



6.1 Mapped curriculum evidence summary table

	Intraosseous Acute Nurse cannula Behavioural administered insertion Disturbance thrombolysis Protocol														•		•	
	Advanced Life Support and/ or Paediatric Advanced Life Support										•					•		
	Nitrous oxide														•			
onal	Wound														•			
Additional	Radiology requests/ nurse- initiated x-ray											•	•		•			
	Splinting and slings											•			•			
	Pink shaded medication / intervention	•					•			•	•	•	•					
	Unshaded	•					•			•	•							
	IVC and Pathology													•				
	Focused assessments	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•						
	Clinical assessment and specified interventions (A-G)	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•						
Core	Red flags	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
	Signs and symptoms	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
	History	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
		Bachelor of Nursing	Diploma of Nursing	Between the Flags Adult	Between the Flags Paediatric	Nursing in Emergency Care Settings	Transition to Practice Emergency Nursing Program	Rural Nurse Pathways in Practice	Emergency Triage Course	Nurse Delegated Emergency Care	First Line Emergency Care Course	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program	Existing Local Standing Orders	Peripheral Intravenous Access (PIVC)	Specific Local education and training packages	Adult and /Or Paediatric Advanced Life Support education and training	Emergency Department Violence Prevention Management (EDVPM)	Education and training according to NSW Health Policy Directive <i>Nurse</i>

## 6.2 History Taking

ECAT Protocols that require this knowledge	All					
Definition	<ul> <li>Gathering subjective and objective data, family, surgical, medical, medication and psychosocial history, and infection risk</li> </ul>					
Required knowledge/skill^ Ain addition to the Bachelor of Nursing and Diploma of Nursing	<ul> <li>History of presenting illness/presentation</li> <li>Past medical history</li> <li>Prehospital treatment</li> <li>Past admissions, medical and surgical history</li> <li>Current medications</li> <li>Known allergies</li> <li>Structured history taking approaches e.g. AMPLE, IMIST-AMPLE, PQRST</li> <li>Between the Flags learning pathway (adult and/or paediatric)</li> </ul>					
	Learning Program/Package					
	Nursing in Emergency Care Settings					
	Transition to Practice Emergency Nursing Program					
Postgraduate education and	First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)					
training which covers history taking	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)					
_	Nurse Delegated Emergency Care (NDEC)					
	Rural Nurse Pathways in Practice (RNPiP)					
	Emergency Triage Education Program (ETEK)					

## 6.3 Recognition of Signs and Symptoms

ECAT Protocols that require this knowledge	<ul> <li>Gather objective evidence and subjective evidence of a patient's condition</li> </ul>				
Definition					
Required knowledge/skill^ Ain addition to the Bachelor of Nursing and Diploma of Nursing	<ul> <li>Anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology</li> <li>History taking</li> <li>Systematic patient assessment</li> <li>Red flags</li> <li>Medical terminology</li> <li>Between the Flags learning pathway (adult and/or paediatric)</li> </ul>				
	Learning Program/Package				
	Nursing in Emergency Care Settings				
	Transition to Practice Emergency Nursing Program				
Postgraduate education and	First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)				
training which covers recognition of signs and symptoms	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)				
	Nurse Delegated Emergency Care (NDEC)				
	Rural Nurse Pathways in Practice (RNPiP)				
	Emergency Triage Education Program (ETEK)				

## 6.4 Red Flags

ECAT Protocols that require this knowledge	Historical and clinical indicators of actual or potential clinical severity and risk of deterioration				
Definition					
Required knowledge/skill^ ^in addition to the Bachelor of Nursing and Diploma of Nursing	<ul> <li>Systematic patient assessment</li> <li>Primary and secondary survey</li> <li>Historical and clinical red flags</li> <li>Time sensitive presentations</li> <li>Between the Flags learning pathway (adult and/or paediatric)</li> </ul>				
	Learning Program/Package				
	Nursing in Emergency Care Settings				
	Transition to Practice Emergency Nursing Program				
Postgraduate education and	First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)				
training which covers red flags	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)				
	Nurse Delegated Emergency Care (NDEC)				
	Rural Nurse Pathways in Practice (RNPiP)				
	Emergency Triage Education Program (ETEK)				

## 6.5 Clinical Assessment and Specified Interventions

ECAT Protocols that require this knowledge	All					
Definition	<ul> <li>A structured approach to physical assessment that considers a patient's airway, breathing, circulation, disability, exposure, fluids, glucose</li> <li>Intervention – a treatment, procedure or other action taken including escalation to prevent or treat the presenting condition.</li> </ul>					
Required knowledge/skill^ Ain addition to the Bachelor of Nursing and Diploma of Nursing	<ul> <li>Comprehensive systematic physical and mental state assessment</li> <li>History taking</li> <li>Red flags</li> <li>Escalation</li> <li>Clinical signs of deterioration</li> <li>Clinical risks</li> <li>Escalation parameters and processes</li> <li>ISBAR</li> <li>Documentation</li> <li>Airway emergencies</li> <li>Breathing emergencies</li> <li>Circulatory emergencies</li> <li>Sepsis pathway</li> <li>Stroke protocols</li> <li>Pathway for Acute Coronary Syndrome (PACSA)</li> <li>Between the Flags learning pathway (adult and/or paediatric)</li> </ul>					
	Learning Program/Package					
	Transition to Practice Emergency Nursing Program					
Postgraduate education and	First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)					
training which covers clinical assessment and specified	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)					
interventions	Nurse Delegated Emergency Care (NDEC)					
	Rural Nurse Pathways in Practice (RNPiP)					
	Emergency Triage Education Program (ETEK)					

### 6.6 Focused Assessments

Clinical assessment skills are a key part of nursing practice and all NMBA registered and enrolled nurses have the required skills to be capable of performing the ECAT focused assessments. Whilst some nurses may not have undertaken specific education and training to perform targeted focused assessments, a guide is provided in the ECAT Protocols which builds on foundational nursing skills.

ECAT Protocols that require this knowledge	All
Definition	<ul> <li>Focused assessments provide a consistent structured approach to performing a detailed assessment of a specific body system(s). The focused assessment relates to the current presenting problem or concern and must be used to inform requests for investigations and inform decisions regarding interventions</li> </ul>
Required knowledge/skill^ Ain addition to the Bachelor of Nursing and Diploma of Nursing	<ul> <li>Foundational assessment skills i.e: look, listen, feel (inspect, auscultate, palpate)</li> <li>Follow focused assessment guide provided within the ECAT Protocols</li> <li>Between the Flags learning pathway (adult and/or paediatric)</li> </ul>

## 6.7 Interventions

ECAT Protocols that require this knowledge	. patront accordant in the contract in the contract of the con	
Definition	<ul> <li>Intervention – a treatment, procedure or other action taken including escalation to prevent or treat the presenting condition</li> <li>Diagnostics – any medical test performed to aid in the diagnosis or detection of illness</li> </ul>	
Required knowledge/skill <sup>^</sup> ^in addition to the Bachelor of Nursing	<ul> <li>Patient assessment</li> <li>How to use an ECAT Protocol</li> <li>Nurse Initiated x-ray</li> <li>Pathology requests</li> <li>Wound Closure</li> <li>Intraosseous Cannula insertion</li> <li>Splinting and slings</li> </ul>	

Learning program/package which covers the required knowledge/skill for an investigation/intervention		
Investigation/Intervention	on Learning Program/Package	
Intraosseous (IO) access	Local IO access education and training package	
Splinting and slings	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)	
	Local splinting and slings education and/or training package	
Nurse initiated x-ray	Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN)	
	Local nurse-initiated x-ray education and training package	
Wound closure, including local anaesthetics	I ocal wound closure education and training nackage	
Nurse administered thrombolysis	Education and training according to NSW Health Policy Directive Nurse Administered Thrombolysis for ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) (PD2022_055)	

### 6.8 Medications

Medication administration is a core component of the Bachelor of Nursing degree and is a key part of nursing practice. The content and subject learning outcomes of the Bachelor of Nursing program supports the development of student knowledge and skills in pharmacotherapeutics and the quality use of medicines. This includes the supply and administration of medicines (ANMAC, 2019).

ECAT Protocols that require this knowledge	All
Definition	<ul> <li>Protocol medications include the drug, dose, route and frequency. Administration should be guided by the patient assessment. Medications that are shaded are only to be ordered by nurses who have completed the prerequisite education or have demonstrated the relevant RPL.</li> </ul>
Required knowledge/ skill	<ul> <li>Patient assessment</li> <li>How to use an ECAT Protocol</li> <li>Pharmacology</li> <li>The rights of medication administration</li> <li>Legal obligations</li> <li>Checking drug reference sources for contraindications and precautions</li> <li>Monitoring and managing effects and managing allergies</li> </ul>

Education and training which covers the required knowledge/skill				
	Description	Education		
Unshaded	Medications frequently used in the emergency setting are key components of initiating care	Bachelor of Nursing		
Pink shaded / diamond	Medications which are either:  indicated for higher acuity conditions  AND/OR  require further developed patient assessment skills, knowledge, and training for dynamic emergency settings with an undifferentiated patient	Bachelor of Nursing AND Transition to Speciality Practice program (TTSP) Emergency Nursing or Clinical Initiatives Nurse Program (CIN) or First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC)		
		Bachelor of Nursing AND:		
Blue shaded / triangle	Wound closure, including local anaesthetics	Local wound closure education and training package		
	Nitrous Oxide administration	Local nitrous oxide education and training package		
	Adult Advanced Life Support level 1 interventions and/or medications	Adult Advanced Life Support level 1 OR Adult Advanced Life Support level 2 OR First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC) OR Local Adult Advanced Life Support education and training package		
	Adult Advanced Life Support level 2 medications	Adult Advanced Life Support level 2 OR First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC) OR Local Adult Advanced Life Support education and training package		
	Paediatric Advanced Life Support interventions and/or medications	Paediatric Advanced Life Support OR First Line Emergency Care Course (FLECC) OR Local Paediatric Advanced Life Support education and training package		
	Nurse administered thrombolysis	Education and training according to NSW Health Policy Directive Nurse Administered Thrombolysis for ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) (PD2022_055)		

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council. (2015). Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning in Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery Programs Australia.

https://www.anmac.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/20150821\_Expl\_Note\_Cred\_Tfer\_RPL

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council. (2019). Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards. https://www.anmac.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/registerednurseaccreditationstandards2019\_0.pdf

College of Emergency Nursing Australia. (2020). *Practice Standards for the Specialist Emergency Nurse. Australia*. https://www.cena.org.au/public/118/files/Policies/2020%20PracStnd%20SpecEmergNurse.pdf

International Council of Nurses. (2021). *The International Council of Nurses code of ethics for nurses*. https://www.icn.ch/system/files/2021-10/ICN\_Code-of-Ethics\_EN\_Web\_0.pdf

NSW Government. (2020). *Policy Directive, Recognition and management of patients who are deteriorating*. https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2020\_018

NSW Government. (2022). Guideline, NSW Rural Adult Emergency Clinical Guidelines. Australia NSW Health. <a href="https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/GL2022\_004.pdf">https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/GL2022\_004.pdf</a>

NSW Government. (2021). Guideline, *NSW Rural Paediatric Emergency Clinical Guidelines – Third Edition*. https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/GL2021\_011.pdf

NSW Health. (2023) NSW Health Emergency Nurse Capability Framework.

https://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/our-focus-areas/nursing-and-midwifery/emergency-nursing-capability-framework

NSW Health. (2011). Facilitator's Manual, Transition to Practice Emergency Nursing Program. https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0004/273370/tten-facilitators-manual.pdf

NSW Health. (2017). *Guideline, Nurse Delegated Emergency Care Nurse Management Guidelines*. <a href="https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/GL2017\_009.pdf">https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/GL2017\_009.pdf</a>

NSW Health. (2022). NSW Health Mandatory Training Matrix and Targeting Guide. Australia, Health Education and Training Institute.

 $\underline{\text{https://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/my-health-learning/mandatory-training/matrix-and-related-documents}$ 

NSW Health. (2011). Resource Manual, Clinical Initiatives Nurse in Emergency Departments – Educational Program. https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0010/273979/cin-resource-manual-final-0.pdf

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. (2016). *Registered nurse standards for practice*. <a href="https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards/registered-nurse-standards-for-practice.aspx">https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards/registered-nurse-standards-for-practice.aspx</a>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. (2017). Enrolled nurse standards for practice. Australia. <a href="https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards/enrolled-nurse-standards-for-practice.aspx">https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards/enrolled-nurse-standards-for-practice.aspx</a>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. (2023). *Professional standards*. https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/codes-guidelines-statements/professional-standards.aspx

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. (2020). *Decision-making framework*. https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Frameworks.aspx



#### Health Education and Training Institute (HETI)

1 Reserve Road St Leonards NSW 2065 T: (02) 9844 6551 E: heti-info@health.nsw.gov.au www.heti.nsw.gov.au

This work is copyright. It may be reproduced in whole or in part for study or training purposes subject to the inclusion of an acknowledgement of the source. It may not be reproduced for commercial usage or sale. Reproduction for purposes other than those indicated above requires written permission from HETI.

Further copies of this document can be downloaded from the HETI webpage www.heti.nsw.gov.au

Title: Emergency Care Assessment and Treatment: Education and RPL Guide

SHPN (HETI) 230880 ISBN 978-1-76023-666-3

© Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) November 2023

HETI acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands across NSW. We acknowledge that we live and work on Aboriginal lands. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal people.

