



Do you know your ARA Medics Skills?



**Prepared by Trade Master Army Medical Assistants
Army School of Health**

**The Australian Regular Army has currently two levels of Medical Assistant:
Basic Medical Operator (BMO) ECN 031-1
The Advanced Medical Technician (AMT) ECN 031-2**

The Basic Medical Operator (BMO) ECN 031-1

These soldiers have completed a comprehensive 33 week course that has prepared them for employment in the following areas of Army:

- Primary Care Health Teams (RAP & Medical centres under the guidance of AMT, NO and MO)
- Evacuation teams (to assist the AMT)
- Low Dependency teams (LDT) as [part of the capability brick]
- Small Arms range (Table 1.2 Specific minimum range safety requirements small arms ranges MLW 2.9.2 Range Regulations)

What is the BMO capable of providing?

- As per the Army Treatment Protocols Manual Volume One Pre Hospital care (ATPM Vol One)
- Initial evaluation of the sick and wounded (Primary & Secondary survey)
- Intravenous Fluid replacement for illness or injury
- Pain relief using Morphine and Penthrane
- Oxygen Therapy
- Transportation of the sick and wounded via Ambulance
- Extensive basic nursing care in the field and barracks environment
- WGBT
- Pathology collection
- Wound management and treatment

Extraction of the injured using service extraction equipment and the use of specific treatment protocols:

- Casualty
- Triage categories
- Head Injuries
- Face and Neck Injuries
- Eye Injuries
- Thoracic Injuries
- Abdominal Injuries
- Spinal Injuries
- Limb Injuries

- Burn Injuries
- Cardiac Arrest
- Convulsions
- Envenomation
- Heat Illnesses
- Hypothermia
- Anaphylaxis
- Casualty Evacuation Priorities
- Procedure for cardiac arrest
- Procedure for an Oropharyngeal Airway
- Procedure for the Application of a Cervical Collar
- Procedure for the Application of a Kendrick Extrication Device
- Procedure for the Application of a Spinal Lifting Frame
- Procedure for the Application of a Donway Splint

Advanced Medical Technician (AMT) ECN 031-2

These soldiers have completed a minimum period of 18 months post BMO course and have completed the 14 week advanced medical training course. This course is an extension of the basic course to the next level of primary health care and emergency care in both cardiac and trauma emergency conditions. The AMT is required to follow the protocols in the Advanced Medical Emergency manual which outlines the policy and medical procedures that the AMT is authorised to initiate when treating the ill or injured.

The AMT is employable in the following areas:

- RAP or medical centre
- Evacuation team
- Resuscitation team
- Low dependency team leader
- AME team member
- Medium Dependency Team member
- High or Intensive care team member
- Company/SQN/Battery medic
- Small Arms range (Table 1.2 Specific minimum range safety requirements small arms ranges MLW 2.9.2 Range Regulations)

What is the AMT capable of providing?

- Advanced airway management with the use of the laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA) and other advanced airway procedures for airway emergencies
- Analyse and initiate treatment for prescribed cardiac conditions and emergencies
- Initiate the treatment for a wide range of primary health conditions
- Suture minor wounds
- Prepare health plans for commanders
- Conduct sick parades and treat a wide range of illness
- Treat chest decompression with invasive techniques
- Oxygen therapy with positive pressure ventilation
- Trained to assist in Endotracheal intubation
- Trained to participate as a resuscitation team member
- Can provide emergency Field dental care
- Prolonged or Recurrent Seizures
- Hypoglycaemia and Hyperglycaemia
- Diving (Scuba) illness/injuries
- The Emergency Management of the seriously ill casualty
- Emergency Childbirth and problem labours
- Spinal Cord Injury Assessment
- A wide range of emergency and primary health medications.

Skills Maintenance Log Books

Maintaining the medic's skills and competence is both an individual and unit requirement. If the medical skills, procedures and protocols are not assessed annually as per the Skills Maintenance Log Book how can the commander be assured that the medics are current and capable of the vital role they play in the delivery of emergency and medical care to the Australian Army.

In accordance with HPD 822 all medical assistants are to be assessed in the clinical and emergency procedures and protocols and these assessments are to be filed within the issued Skills Maintenance Log books issued from the start of the soldier's medical training