



Advanced MIS, Robotic & Ablation Society
of Gynaecologists Malaysia

AMRAS – SAYGE Certification (ASC) Guideline

Procedure: vNOTES
(Vaginal Natural Orifice Transluminal
Endoscopic Surgery)

*An up-to-date AMRAS Membership Subscription
is compulsory in order to apply for certification*

Prepared by: AMRAS

The Advanced MIS, Robotic & Ablation Society of Gynaecologists Malaysia

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Important Disclaimer:

ASC Steps 1-3 and CCT are aimed at surgical training of candidate. ASC and certificate of completion of training (CCT) marks candidate's successful completion of stringent preset requirements by AMRAS to be awarded certificate as recognition to candidates' dedication and ability to perform said procedure(s) to satisfaction of expert surgeons/proctors in respective field(s). The certificates do not replace the need for individual credentialing and privileging of surgeon by his/her place of practice with approval of relevant hospital credentialing & privileging committee before performing said procedure(s).

Current ASC vNOTES Proctors List

- I. Dr Chua Peng Teng
- II. Dr Sundar Gungan Santhana Dass
- III. Dr Joanne Chuah Joo Ngor
- IV. Dr Tomonori Hada (Japan)-Observation only at overseas centre
- V. Dr Celene Hui (Singapore)-Observation only at overseas centre

Expenses and Cost incurred to candidate:**1. Step 1 / Pre-Congress registration fee:**

RM1000 – For certification

RM500 – For observer only

***Pre-requisite to apply for step 1 certification: At least 10 cases of Laparoscopic Hysterectomy performed as 1st Surgeon**

***Minimum pass mark 80% in test to be awarded step 1 certificate**

(For candidate who fail step1 – repeat/resit registration fee at RM500 for subsequent Step 1 course, candidate can choose whether to attend lectures on day of step 1 course then resit test or only attend for test session on day of step 1 course).

2. Step 2 Application Fee: RM1000

3. Step 3 Application Fee: RM 1000

ASC Step 1: (Organised at AMRAS Annual Congress)

Overview of Step 1 programme:

- Basic Science – Pelvic Anatomy in vNOTES
- Comprehensive overview and knowledge: Port placement, Port usage, overview and knowledge.
- Demonstration, Dry Lab hands on mannequin for vNOTES hysterectomy.

Theoretical Test / Written test – MCQ – pass mark 80/100

Award of Step 1 certificate

- See attached Step 1 programme table (**Appendix 3**)
- **After PASS obtained, candidate will be notified by email.**

ASC Step 2

Candidate apply in writing to AMRAS secretariat with step1 certificate + RM1000 application fee (payable to AMRAS)

AMRAS Advanced MIS Committee (AMIS) Chairman/Vice Chairman assigns proctor to candidate

Candidate can then choose, either to:

(i) Engage Proctor directly and make arrangements with proctor- i.e.: Proctor gets paid surgeon fee equivalent of procedure, proctor accommodation and travel covered by candidate. Candidate can make as many sessions to fulfill pass requirement as needed with proctor, by own arrangement.

(ii) Apply for AMRAS educational partner support: Educational partner offers educational contract/Letter of Agreement (LOA) to proctor (Proctor is paid by company's terms/ Fair Market Value). Educational partners may only cover ONE session for the candidate. Hence if candidate is unable to complete pass requirement for that step in 1 session, candidate will need to engage Proctor directly and make arrangements with proctor as per clause (i). Educational partner may also cover more than 1 session for candidate to complete requirements but this is subject to company rules of engagement which will vary.

Proctor accepts/rejects contract from Education Partner

If accept contract – proctor will inform/arrange with candidate in writing regarding venue, day and time of training to take place (Either at Proctor centre / candidate centre)

If proctor rejects contract – AMRAS Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman to reassign suitable proctor or proctor to make own arrangement regarding honorarium/Logistic arrangement with candidate as per clause (i) and if both parties agree, to proceed after informing Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman in writing.

Recommended 3-5 cases of actual surgery observation/ Assisting AMRAS recognized proctor

(Appendix 1: Candidate logbook)

Logbook of procedures to be maintained by candidate

(Appendix 2: Proctor report on candidate performance) and whether Pass/Remedial needed to complete step 2

Proctors report on candidate performance, written assessment – these to be submitted to AMRAS Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman for final approval.

Once approved by Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman - candidate is awarded step 2 certificate

ASC Step 3

Candidate apply in writing to AMRAS secretariat with step 1 and 2 certificate + RM1000 application fee (payable to AMRAS).

* See Appendix 4 for Non-ASC Pathway: *If candidate skips previous steps, then there is no need to attach previous steps' certificate(s).*

***Subsequent Flow similar to Step 2**

Candidate can then choose, either to:

(i) Engage Proctor directly and make arrangements with proctor- i.e.: Proctor gets paid surgeon fee equivalent of procedure, proctor accommodation and travel covered by candidate. Candidate can make as many sessions to fulfill pass requirement as needed with proctor, by own arrangement.

(ii) Apply for AMRAS educational partner support: educational partner offers educational contract/Letter of Agreement (LOA) to proctor (Proctor is paid by company's terms/ Fair Market Value). Educational partners may only cover ONE session for the candidate. Hence if candidate is unable to complete pass requirement for that step in 1 session, candidate will need to engage Proctor directly and make arrangements with proctor as per clause (i). Educational partner may also cover more than 1 session for candidate to complete requirements but this is subject to company rules of engagement which will vary.

Proctor accepts/rejects contract from Education Partner

If accept contract – proctor will inform/arrange with candidate in writing regarding venue, day and time of training to take place (Either at Proctor centre/ candidate centre)

If proctor rejects contract – AMRAS Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman to reassign suitable proctor or proctor to make own arrangement regarding honorarium/Logistic arrangement with candidate as per clause (i) and if both parties agree, to proceed after informing Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman in writing.

Recommended 3-5 cases of actual surgery performed under supervision and assessment of AMRAS recognized proctor

(Appendix 1: Candidate logbook)

Logbook of procedures to be maintained by candidate

(Appendix 2: Proctor report on candidate performance) and whether Pass/Remedial needed to complete step 3

Proctors report on candidate performance, written assessment – these to be submitted to AMRAS Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman for final approval.

IMPORTANT:

Candidate when applying for step 3 assessment by AMIS committee, needs to have at least 2 recorded, unedited, high quality (HD) videos of surgery being performed by candidate as primary surgeon, for submission and to be assessed as part of criteria to be awarded step 3.

Videos submitted MUST BE IN DETAIL and contains the following for assessment:

****SHOWING VNOTES ENTRY TECHNIQUE is compulsory***

Demonstration of following in video recordings:

Phase A(Vaginal Entry)

Phase B(Endoscopic/Laparoscopic Phase)

Phase C(Vaginal closure)

Once approved by Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman - candidate is awarded step 3 certificate

NOTE: Exemptions:

Exemption from Step 1:

Candidates may apply to Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman in writing to request for exemption from step 1 and Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman will decide if candidate can be exempted based on prior qualifications/demonstrable track record, or if candidate has passed relevant basic tests or courses organised by equivalent society for vNOTES which is equivalent to (AMRAS ASC Step1 content).

****Decision by Advanced MIS Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman is final.***

Exemption from Step 2:

Candidates are allowed to skip Step 2 and directly proceeding to Step 3 certification process provided candidate demonstrates confidence and ability to perform procedure as primary surgeon under supervision to proctor, and proctor supervises candidate as per step 3 protocol.

Exemption from achieving recommended 3-5 cases required for Step 3

If proctor deems candidate is ready / qualified to be passed for step 3 of certification despite not achieving recommended case numbers of 3-5, based on case to case basis, proctor to write in to Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman and recommend as such and final decision will be made by Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman whether candidate is allowed to be passed for said step without adequate case numbers.

****Decision by Advanced MIS Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman is final.***

For candidates who are not able to complete required case numbers for step 3 in presence of proctor in 1 setting:

Candidate to request to proctor for below: (Subject to Proctor Approval)

Candidate records every unedited videos of surgery performed + logbook of procedures and submit to assigned proctor for evaluation (to reach recommended numbers of at least 3-5 cases or to satisfaction of assigned proctor)

Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in vNOTES

Is awarded to candidate who have completed step 1 – 3 with demonstration of confidence & competency in performing said procedure (AMRAS Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman will receive assigned proctor recommendations, vet candidate performance and submit recommendation to AMRAS Accreditation Board (AAB) for consideration to award CCT to candidate)

***Decision by AAB is final.**

Candidates who are deemed not successful in CCT certification will need to resit all or part of Steps 1 -3 based on recommendation by AMRAS Accreditation Board (AAB) to be considered for award CCT in another attempt.

****CCT in vNOTES is part of requirement for candidates of FMIGS AMRAS who would like to pursue AMIGS AMRAS recognition***

****To be awarded AMIGS, both CCT in vNOTES and Robotic Surgery are required***

Proctors in vNOTES programme:

Doctors who have satisfactorily completed ASC Step 1-3 and obtained CCT, after completion of 50 cases performed as primary surgeon will be eligible to be apply to relevant committee Chairman & Vice Chairman for review and such application submitted by committee to AAB for consideration of award of proctor status.

Doctors who do not undergo the ASC training programme and certification but deemed qualified to be proctors based on track-record, demonstrable qualifications/experience may be considered by Committee Chairman / Vice Chairman on case-to-case basis to be elected as proctor for procedure.

For details on eligibility and how to apply for AMRAS Proctor status, visit website link:

<https://amras.org.my/education/surgeon-proctors-of-amras/>

Appendix 1

Candidate Log Book

ASC Programme: vNOTES

Step 2 / Step 3 **(Please state whether it is step 2 or 3)**

Date	Patient RN	Diagnosis	Procedure	Candidate status (O/A/P)	Remarks / Others

O - Observed

A - Assisted Proctor

P - Performed under supervision as primary surgeon

Proctor's Signature

Name:

Designation:

Date: / / (day/month/year)

Appendix 2:

Proctor Report on Candidate Performance (Confidential)

ASC Programme: vNOTES

Step 2 / 3

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate IC/RN: _____

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND FULFILLMENT OF TASKS, ABILITY TO SAFELY PERFORM PROCEDURE AS SURGEON

SUPERVISOR ASSESSMENT	
	PASS (P) / REMEDIAL NEEDED (R)
Motivation, sense of duty, discipline, punctuality	
Technical skills, vNOTES all phases	
Integrated Knowledge on Procedure	
Relationship with medical and other staffs	
Completed required case numbers	
Comprehensive Knowledge or demonstration of ability to manage difficult situations / Complications that may arise	
Ability to carry out procedure safely as primary surgeon	
Adequate record keeping/ consent taking	

Note: Candidate must Pass in all categories to pass the particular step of assessment

Other comments/ recommendation from proctor for remedial (if any) by candidate:

Proctor's Signature

Name:

Designation:

Date: / / (day/month/year)

Appendix 3

ASC Step 1 vNOTES Workshop programme overview and schedule (Subject to change by organisers)

Time	Topic	Faculty	Note
07:30-08:00	Registration		
08:00-08:15	Introduction to vNOTES pre-congress		
08:15 -08:45	Female Pelvic Anatomy: The vNOTES perspective		
08:45-09:45	vNOTES Hysterectomy		1) Vaginal approach 2) Gel point set up 3) Laparoscopic part
09:45-10:15	vNOTES Adnexal surgery		1) Vaginal approach 2) Gel point set up 3) Cystectomy and oophorectomy
10:15-12:45	Live Surgery/ Surgery video demonstration		
12:45-13:00	Potential Complications / Troubleshooting in vNOTES		
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-14:30	Stations and Briefing Faculty demonstration on mannequin		
14:30-16:00	Hands on vNOTES stations: Hysterectomy		
16:00-16:45	Exam-Post Test		
16:45-17:00	Evaluations by examiners		
17:00-17:30	Closing, Award of certificate: AMRAS SAYGE step 1 vNOTES certificate		

Appendix 4

Alternative pathway to obtain ASC Step 3 directly & for CCT

For candidates who embark on ASC vNOTES certification, two pathways are available: (Candidate can choose one of the two training pathways as follows):

Pathway 1: After Step 1 certification, application for each step 2 and 3 separately based on guideline and with application fee for each step. This is a more grounded and guided pathway with more involvement from proctor and guidance in training. **(Classical ASC pathway)**

Pathway 2: Self-directed pathway for experienced surgeons, without need for application for steps 1 and/or 2. Proctor will be assigned to candidate in writing upon candidate's expression of interest to AMIS chairman for training. (Proctor needs to be reimbursed based on guideline and candidate assists / perform cases under recognized AMRAS proctor). Alternatively, Candidate can perform surgery as primary surgeon at own centre on his/her own accord, maintains logbook and eventually apply directly to AMRAS Advanced MIS committee (AMIS) chairman for a direct step 3 assessment with fee as per guideline. If successfully passed for step 3, chairman will forward candidate application to AAB for final consideration of award of CCT. **(Alternative ASC Pathway)**

IMPORTANT: Both pathways require candidate to have at least 2 recorded, unedited, high quality (HD) videos of surgery being performed by candidate as primary surgeon, for submission and to be assessed as part of criteria to be awarded step 3.

Please refer to website for more information as follows:

<https://amras.org.my/education/certificate-of-completion-awardees/>

APPLICATION FORM

AMRAS – SAYGE Certification (ASC)
Vaginal Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery
vNOTES Programme

1. Applicant Details

Full Name	:	_____
NRIC/Passport No.	:	_____
AMRAS Member ID.	:	_____ (AMRAS-XX-XXXX)
Medical Registration No.	:	_____
Hospital / Institution	:	_____
Designation	:	_____
Email Address	:	_____
Mobile Number	:	_____
Mailing Address	:	_____

2. Application Type (Please tick the appropriate box)

Step 1: vNOTES Workshop

- ☐ First-time Registration – RM 1000
- ☐ Resit (Repeat Candidate) – RM 500
- ☐ **Step 2:** Proctorship Observation/Assistance – RM 1000
- ☐ **Step 3:** Supervised Performance Assessment – RM 1000

3. Documents Checklist

- ☐ Curriculum Vitae (CV) (for Step 1 / Direct step 3 & CCT application)
- ☐ Proof of Payment (bank slip)
- ☐ Application Form
- ☐ Step 1 Certificate (for Step 2 application)
- ☐ Step 2 Certificate (for Step 3 application)
- ☐ Logbook (for Step 2)
- ☐ Logbook (for Step 3)
- ☐ Completed Proctor Report (if applicable)

4. Payment Information

Payment must be made to:

Account Name: AMRAS OF GYNAECOLOGISTS MALAYSIA
Bank: UOBM JALAN AMPANG
Bank Address: CITIBANK TOWER, 165, JALAN AMPANG, 50450,
KUALA LUMPUR
MYR Account No.: 560-300-576-8
USD Account No.: 560-900-381-3
Swift Code: UOVBMYKL

5. Declaration

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for participation in the ASC vNOTES Programme as specified above. I declare that the information provided is accurate and complete. I agree to comply with the requirements and terms set by AMRAS and understand that the decision of the AMRAS Advanced MIS Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman is final.

Full Name: _____

NRIC/Passport No.: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

Submit Completed Application To:

AMRAS Secretariat

Email: secretariat@amras.org.my
Phone: +6012 211 3342
Address: Level 2, Women's Clinic, 110, Jalan Professor Khoo Kay Kim,
Seksyen 19, 46300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Website: www.amras.org.my