



Nebraska Board of Nursing

ADVISORY OPINION

OPINION: RN First Assist
ADOPTED: January, 1989
REVISED:
REAFFIRMED: 1/96, 2000

This Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion is issued in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, [Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 \(2\)](#). As such, this advisory opinion is for informational purposes only and is non-binding. The advisory opinions define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing.

RN First Assist

The Nebraska Board of Nursing supports the AORN Official Statement on RN First Assistants. The board supports the Scope of Practice statement that includes the intraoperative nursing behaviors of a) handling tissue, b) providing exposure, c) using instruments, d) suturing, and e) providing hemostasis. The board also encourages the Qualifications of the RN First Assistant statement and Preparation For the RN First Assistant statement as one method for attaining competency to practice in the RN First Assistant role.

A licensed nurse is accountable to be competent for all nursing care that he/she provides. Competence means the ability of the nurse to apply interpersonal, technical and decision-making skills at the level of knowledge consistent with the prevailing standard for the nursing activity being applied. Accountability also includes acknowledgment of personal limitations in knowledge and skills, and communicating the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.

[AORN Position Statements](#)

[AORN Standards of Practice](#)