

APPENDIX

DEFINITIONS

Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN): a person licensed as a registered nurse or with the authority to practice as a registered nurse in this state pursuant to the provisions of the Nurse Licensure Compact who meets all the criteria for licensure and holds a current license to practice as an APRN. (172 NAC 100-002)

Allied Health Professional: health care practitioners with formal education and clinical training who are credentialed through certification, registration and/or licensure. They collaborate with physicians and other members of the health care team to deliver high quality patient care services for the identification, prevention, and treatment of diseases, disabilities and disorders.

Allied Health Professionals:

1. Decrease cost and improve quality of patient care
2. Comprise the majority of the health care work force
3. Include more than 85 distinct occupations, exclusive of physicians and nurses
4. Include over 6 million providers of the 11 million health care workforce
5. Typically attend 2 or 4 year educational programs in community and senior colleges
6. Are educated in over 1,000 programs in the US, which are staffed by 3,000 allied health faculty, and enroll over 30,000 students annually.
7. Are experiencing a workforce shortage greater than that currently seen in nursing.

Allied health professionals are expert in a multitude of therapeutic, diagnostic, and preventive health interventions and function in several diverse settings including disease prevention and control, dietary and nutritional services, mental and physical health promotion, rehabilitation, and health systems management. (Health Professions Network, www.healthpronet.org/docs/allied_health_fact_sheet.pdf)

Approved program [for physician assistant]: a program for the education of physician assistants which is approved by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or its predecessor or successor agency and which the board formally approves. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2008)

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA): a registered nurse and who meets all the criteria for certification and holds a current certification from the State of Nebraska to practice nursing in the specific expanded role of anesthesia; also nurse anesthetist (172 NAC 103)

Delegation: “the transfer of responsibility for the performance of an activity from one person to another while retaining accountability for the outcomes.” (American Nurses Association, www.aacn.org/wd/practice/docs/aacndelegationhandbook.pdf)

Direct supervision: services furnished directly or under arrangement in the hospital or on-campus provider-based department means that the physician must be present on the same campus and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure. For services furnished directly or under arrangement off-campus in a provider-based department of the hospital, direct supervision means that the physician must be present in the off-campus provider-based department and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedures. (CMS Manual, Chapter 15, Section 80)

General supervision: the procedure is furnished under the physician’s overall direction and control, but the physician’s presence is not required during the performance of the procedure. Under general supervision, the training of the non-physician personnel who actually performs the diagnostic procedure

and the maintenance of the necessary equipment and supplies are the continuing responsibility of the physician. (CMS Manual, Chapter 15, Section 80)

Intraoperative care: Patient care procedures performed during the operation that are ancillary to the actual surgery. (www.reference.md/files/D007/mD007430.html)

Licensed independent practitioner: The Joint Commission defines a licensed independent practitioner “as an individual, as permitted by law and regulation, and also by the organization, to provide care and services without direction or supervision within the scope of the individual’s license and consistent with the privileges granted by the organization.” (www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/6/AHC_who_what_when_and_where_credentiaing_booklet.pdf)

Personal supervision: a physician must be in attendance in the room during the performance of the procedure. (CMS Manual, Chapter 15, Section 80)

Physician assistant (PA): any person who graduates from an approved program, who has passed a proficiency examination, and whom the Department of Health and Human Services, with the recommendation of the Board of Medicine and Surgery, approves to perform medical services under the supervision of a physician. (DHHS, 172 NAC 90)

Registry [as it pertains to nursing assistants]: Registry means the central data bank established by 471 NAC 12-002.04 of individuals who have met the training and competency evaluation requirements established in 172 NAC 108-003 for nursing assistants. (172 NAC 108-002)

Scope of practice: A 2005 Federation of State Medical Boards report defined scope of practice as the “Definition of the rules, the regulations, and the boundaries within which a fully qualified practitioner with substantial and appropriate training, knowledge, and experience may practice in a field of medicine or surgery, or other specifically defined field. Such practice is also governed by requirements for continuing education and professional accountability.” (Assessing Scope of Practice in Health Care Delivery: Critical Questions in Assuring Public Access and Safety, Federation of State Medical Boards, 2005, library.fsmb.org/pdf/2005_grpol_scope_of_practice.pdf)

Surgical first assistant: As defined by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), surgical assistants provide aid in exposure, hemostasis, closure, and other intraoperative technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. In addition to intraoperative duties, the surgical assistant also performs preoperative and postoperative duties to better facilitate proper patient care. The surgical assistant performs these functions during the operation under the direction and supervision of the surgeon and in accordance with hospital policy and appropriate laws and regulations. (www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/About_Us/Surgical%20Assistant%20Job%20Description.pdf)

Surgical technologist: allied health professionals, who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients. Surgical technologists work under the supervision of a surgeon to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures, ensuring that the operating room environment is safe, that equipment functions properly, and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety. Surgical technologists possess expertise in the theory and application of sterile and aseptic technique and combine the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures, and implementation tools and technologies to facilitate a physician's performance of invasive therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

Surgical technologists prepare the operating room, including the sterile field, setting up surgical equipment, supplies and solutions. During surgery, surgical technologists pass instruments, fluids and supplies to the surgeon and prepare and manage surgical equipment. Surgical technologists simultaneously manage the sterile field and specimens. Surgical technologists perform a count of

sponges and supplies to prevent foreign retained objects. Surgical technologists are certified following successful completion of a CAAHEP-accredited program or other programmatically-accredited surgical technology program and the national Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting.
(www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/About_Us/Job%20Descriptions.pdf)

Trainee: any person who is currently enrolled in an approved program. (Neb. Rev. State 38-2020)

ACRONYMS

Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) – a private, non-profit accrediting agency for health education programs in the United States

American Board of Surgical Assistants (ABSA) – a national credentialing organization which administers a national certification examination for surgical assistants for private professional credentialing

Association of Surgical Assistants (ASA) – a coalition of surgical assistant practitioners promoting growth, advancing recognition and developing legislative strategies for the occupation while providing benefits for its members

Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) – a professional organization for surgical technologists focused on occupational development

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) – the federal agency providing oversight of the Medicaid and Medicare programs

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) – accreditor of health sciences educational programs, reviewing over 2000 programs across 28 health occupations nationally

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) – an independent, non-profit accrediting and certifying organization that evaluates over 20,000 U.S. health care organizations and programs

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – the department within the executive branch representing the public health needs of Nebraskans; also, the Department

National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) – private certifying agency that issues private professional certification to surgical technologists and surgical first assistants through administration of a certification examination

National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) – accreditor of certification programs for health care professions

National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants (NCCSA) – agency which verifies eligibility for and administers a certification examination for professional credentialing of surgical first assistants

National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA) – an association for professional development of non-physician surgical assistants, offering private professional certification of surgical first assistants through the National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants (NCCSA)