ATTACHMENT 4
MAY 27, 2015

Differentiating Between Surgical Technologists, Certified Surgical Technologists, and Surgical First Assistants

The functions and corresponding occupations below are taken from the Association of Surgical Technology and Association of Surgical Assisting Job Descriptions and are meant to illustrate the levels of training between the various occupations. Though we realize that an individual may have performed functions outside of his or her training, the guidelines provided below are specific to the level of training indicated for each occupation. The functions are not intended to represent what the State of Nebraska should or should not adopt as requirements for licensure of surgical first assistants.

Surgical Technologist

"Scrub Tech"

Education/Training: On-the-Job training or Completion of Accredited Program

1. Checks supplies and equipment needed for surgical procedure
2. Scrubs, gowns and gloves
3. Sets up sterile table with instruments, supplies, equipment, and medications/solutions needed for procedure
4. Performs appropriate counts with circulator prior to the operation and before incision is closed
5. Gowns and gloves surgeon and assistants
6. Helps in draping sterile field
7. Passes instruments, etc., to surgeon during Procedure
8. Maintains highest standard of sterile technique during procedure
9. Prepares sterile dressings
10. Cleans and prepares instruments for terminal sterilization
11. Assists other members of team with terminal cleaning of room
12. Assists in prepping room for the next patient

Certified Surgical Technologist

Education/Training: Completion of Accredited Program & Competency Examination

Includes all functions of the surgical technologist, "scrub tech," and the following: (Circulating Surgical Technologist, #1-17)

1. Obtains appropriate sterile and unsterile items needed for procedure
2. Opens sterile supplies
3. Checks patient's chart, identifies patient, verifies surgery to be performed with consent forms, and brings patient to assigned operating room
4. Transfers patient to operating room table
5. Maintains comfort and safety measures and provides verbal and tactile reassurance to the patient
6. Assists anesthesia personnel
7. Positions patient, using appropriate equipment
8. Applies electrosurgical grounding pads, tourniquets, monitors, etc., before procedure begins
9. Prepares the patient's skin prior to draping by surgical team
10. Performs appropriate counts with scrub person prior to the operation and before incision is closed

Surgical First Assistant

Education/Training: Completion of Accredited Program or 200 Supervised Clinical Cases & Completion of Competency Examination

Includes all functions of the certified surgical technologist and the following:

1. Positioning the patient
2. Providing visualization of the operative site
3. Utilizing appropriate techniques to assist with hemostasis
4. Participating in volume replacement or autotransfusion techniques as appropriate
5. Utilizing appropriate techniques to assist with closure of body planes
6. Selecting and applying appropriate wound dressings
7. Providing assistance in securing drainage systems to tissue

** Please note that functions involving physician delegation to a surgical first assistant are not allowable under state law at this time*

Certified Surgical Technologist
(Continued)

11. Anticipates additional supplies needed during the procedure
12. Keeps accurate records throughout the procedure
13. Properly cares for specimens
14. Secures dressings after incision closure
15. Helps transport patient to recovery room
16. Assists in cleaning of room and preparing for next patient
17. Performs urinary catheterization when necessary

(Second Assisting Technologist, #1-23)

18. Holds retractors or instruments as directed by the surgeon
19. Sponges or suctions operative site
20. Applies electrocautery to clamps on bleeders
21. Cuts suture material as directed by the surgeon
22. Connects drains to suction apparatus
23. Applies dressings to closed wound

** Please note that functions 18 and 21 are not allowable under Nebraska law*

www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/About_Us/Surgical%20Assistant%20Job%20Description.pdf

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