ATTACHMENT 5
MAY 27, 2015

SURGICAL SUITE OCCUPATIONS
SCOPES OF PRACTICE, PROPOSED REGISTRY & EXEMPTIONS

OCCUPATION	LICENSED IN NE?	STATUTORY SCOPE (NEB.REV.STAT.), PROPOSED SCOPE OR PROPOSED REGISTRY	EXEMPTIONS FROM PRACTICE ACT

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)
 	
Defined: 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
	YES	STATUTORY SCOPE
		
		A nurse practitioner may provide health care services within a specialty area. Services include:
		• Health promotion,
		• Health supervisions,
		• Illness prevention and diagnosis,
		• Treatment,
		• Management of common health problems and acute and chronic conditions, including:
		  • Assessing patients,
		  • Ordering diagnostic tests and therapeutic treatments,
		  • Synthesizing and analyzing data,
		  • Applying advanced nursing principles,
		  • Dispensing sample medications, and
		  • Prescribing therapeutic measures and medications related to health conditions within the scope of practice.
		
		Nurse practitioners certified in a psychiatric or mental health specialty may manage care of patients committed under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act.
		
		A nurse practitioner may pronounce death and complete and sign death certificates and any other forms within his/her scope of practice.
		
		(38-2315)
			Physician, Pharmacist

Physician Assistant (PA) **Defined:** any person who graduates from an approved program, who has passed a proficiency examination and whom	YES	STATUTORY SCOPE A physician assistant may perform medical services that: • Are delegated by and provided under the supervision of a licensed physician; • Are appropriate to the level of competence of the physician assistant; • Form a component of the supervising physician's scope of practice; and • Are not otherwise prohibited by law.	**Physician, Nurse Practitioner**

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the Department, with the recommendation of the Board, approves to perform medical services under the supervision of a physician (172 NAC 90)		This includes, but is not limited to, ordering diagnostic, therapeutic, and other medical services. A physician assistant may pronounce death and complete and sign death certificates and any other forms within his/her scope of practice and the supervising physician's scope of practice. (38-2047)	
Registered Nurse - First Assist Designation (RNFA) **Defined:** a registered nurse (RN) is an individual who has graduated from an approved program with an associate degree, diploma, or baccalaureate degree in nursing, has passed the NCLEX-RN® or State Board Test Pool Examination and holds a current license or has the authority based on the Nurse Licensure Compact to practice as a registered nurse in Nebraska (172 NAC 101); the First Assist designation is given to a perioperative registered nurse who functions in an expanded role (AORN)	As an RN only; The first assist designation is recognized by the Nebraska State Board of Nursing through a January 1989 Advisory Opinion on RN First Assist	STATUTORY SCOPE (1) The practice of nursing by a registered nurse means assuming responsibility and accountability for nursing actions. (2) Nursing actions include, but are not limited to: (a) Assessing human responses to actual or potential health conditions; (b) Establishing nursing diagnoses; (c) Establishing goals and outcomes to meet identified health care needs; (d) Establishing and maintaining a plan of care; (e) Prescribing nursing interventions to implement the plan of care; (f) Implementing the plan of care; (g) Teaching health care practices; (h) Delegating, directing, or assigning nursing interventions that may be performed by others and that do not conflict with the Nurse Practice Act; (i) Maintaining safe and effective nursing care rendered directly or indirectly; (j) Evaluating responses to interventions, including, but not limited to, performing physical and psychological assessments of patients under restraint and seclusion as required by federal law, if the registered nurse has been trained in the use of emergency safety intervention; (k) Teaching theory and practice of nursing; (l) Conducting, evaluating, and utilizing nursing research; (m) Administering, managing and supervising the practice of nursing; and	

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		(n) Collaborating with other health professionals in the management of health care. (38-2212) The State of Nebraska does not statutorily recognize the first assistant designation for registered nurses. As an example of what a registered nurse first assistant is, the Iowa Board of Nursing defines the role of a registered nurse first assistant as follows: RN first assistant behaviors in the perioperative arena may include: * preoperative patient management with other health care providers, including but not limited to, - performing preoperative evaluation focused nursing assessment, - communicating/collaborating with other health care providers regarding the patient plan of care, and - writing preoperative orders according to established protocols of the physician and/or facility * intraoperative surgical first-assisting, including but not limited to, - using instruments/medical devices, - providing exposure, - handling and/or cutting tissue, - suturing; and - harvesting veins * postoperative patient management with other health care providers in the immediate postoperative period and beyond, including but not limited to: - writing postoperative orders/operative notes according to established protocols of the physician and/or facility, - participating in postoperative rounds, and - assisting with discharge planning and identifying appropriate community resources as needed. (Adopted by the Iowa Board of Nursing, 1985; Revised and accepted by the Iowa Board of Nursing, 2006; www.iowa.gov/nursing/images/pdf/RN_First_Assistants.pdf)	

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Surgical First Assistant **Proposed regulatory definition:** an individual who has graduated from an approved surgical assisting program, who has passed a proficiency examination, and whom the Department, with the recommendation of the Board, approves to perform medical services under the supervision of a physician	No; Currently in 407 Process	PROPOSED SCOPE Under the proposal, the surgical first assistant scope of practice **includes but is not limited to**: 1. Assisting the surgical team in the intraoperative care of a surgical patient, 2. Positioning the patient, 3. Preparing and draping the patient for the operative procedure, 4. Providing visualization of the operative site, 5. Assist with hemostasis, 6. Assist with closure of body planes, 7. Applying appropriate wound dressings, 8. Providing assistance in securing drainage systems to tissue, 9. Preparing specimens, such as grafts; and 10. Performing tasks during a surgical procedure delegatable under the personal supervision of a licensed physician appropriate to the level of competence of the surgical first assistant.	The following will be exempted from the Act: **Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse**
Surgical Technologist (Certified or Non-Certified)	NO; certification is not recognized by the State	This proposal seeks to create a mandatory registry with a competency assessment requirement for surgical technologists. Completion of an accredited surgical technology program is not a requirement of the registry but a component of the information collected (See Licensure & Registry Requirements Table). Though the Department will develop placement requirements, the following is a potential model, based on the Medication Aide Registry (71-6723, 71-6725): Surgical technologists are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients. Surgical technologists work under the direction of hospital and clinic policies to ensure that the operating room environment is safe, equipment functions properly and the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety. As part of the registry application, a determination will be made by a licensed health care professional and placed in writing that the surgical technologist is competent to	

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		perform the following activities: 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, and 12. Assists in prepping room for the next patient.	