

From: Laura S Stallings [<mailto:LStallings@southeast.edu>]
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 1:57 PM
To: Briel, Ron
Subject: Letter of support for licensure of surgical technologists

Dear Ron,

I have been working in the surgical technology profession for over eight years. I am proud to say that I am a surgical technologist, but most of the time I have to explain to people what a surgical technologist is. Their usual response is "You're a nurse." No, I am not a nurse. I do not have one on one time with patient talking to them about their health and care. This is exactly why I did not choose to be a nurse. I wanted to help the patient but in a different capacity. I wanted to help while the patient was asleep. Since the patient is asleep, they have no idea who is in the operating room suite with them. They assume that the staff is comprised of well-trained individuals who are extremely competent in their skills during what may be a patients most vulnerable time in their lives.

We license people who work on cars, sculpt and paint our fingernails or tattoo our skin. One of the reasons a tattoo artist is licensed is because they deal with sterile instruments and must understand sterile technique. Sterile technique is what surgical technologist's breathe. I am there to ensure everyone in that OR upholds perfect sterile technique. If a contamination happens I am there to recognize and correct the break. This is what I learned when I went through an accredited surgical technology program. That is my life in the OR.

Not only do I worry about sterile technique and keeping the surgical patient from acquiring a surgical site infection, I also help to expedite the surgical procedure. I am there to anticipate the needs of the surgeon and have instruments or supplies ready before they even ask for it. The more I can anticipate, the faster the procedure goes and the less time the patient is under anesthesia and in the operating room. All of these things contribute to the best outcomes for our patients.

I may not have one on one time with the patient, but everything I do in that OR is for the patient. They cannot speak for themselves, I am their voice during the procedure to protect them from an infection. Put yourself on the OR bed, who would you want in your operating room? I know I would want someone who is licensed, proven to be competent and trained to be there.

Thank you for your consideration in the matter of licensing surgical technologist in the state of Nebraska.

Sincerely,
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