

Diane Jackson, Chair
and Members of the Surgical First Assistants Technical Review Committee
Credentialing Review Program
Department of Health and Human Services
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Ms. Jackson and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this correspondence as my testimony on behalf of the Nebraska State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists and our national organizations, Association of Surgical Technologists and the Association of Surgical Assistants in support of the amendment language submitted by the Nebraska Hospital Association today, except for one area of concern we would like you to take under consideration.

Our associations agree that the competence of all surgical technologists in the state should be assessed prior to an individual being placed on the surgical technologist registry and being allowed to function in the surgical technology profession to ensure quality patient care. Our concern is that surgical technologists who are currently Certified Surgical Technologists should not go through a competency assessment to be placed on the registry. These potential registrants have graduated from an accredited surgical technology program, passed the national surgical technologist certifying exam administered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, (a private certifying agency) and maintain current through required continuing education credits.

The passage of the national exam and maintenance of the Certified Surgical Technologist credential is utilized in several other states as the highest level of competence and a condition of employment. Certified Surgical Technologists are required to complete 60 continuing education hours in a four year period to maintain their credential. We also recommend language that includes an educational instructor in surgical technology to administer the competency assessment, rather than just a licensed health care professional.

Therefore we recommend you consider the following language in 4. a.:

5. submit a current certification card issued by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting; **OR**

6. submit a certification of competency assessment completed by an instructor employed by an accredited surgical technology program in the State of Nebraska or a licensed health care professional.

We strongly believe that this language in fact raises the level of competency, rather than include duplicative requirements. Any surgical technologist who has not maintained their credential or has not graduated from an accredited program, would not be able to be listed on the registry unless they complete and pass a competency assessment.

This application is designed to ensure public safety in operating rooms across the state. With this addition, we believe the registry for surgical technologists will do so while also setting a standard of competence essential in the operating room.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and I am available for any questions you may have.

Casey Glassburner, CST, BS, F.A.S.T.
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