



# DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

<b>Division: GULF COAST</b>
<b>Classification: CERTIFIED ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (OPA-C)</b>
<b>Applicant Name:</b>

<p><b>Certified Orthopedic Physician Assistant (OPA-C):</b> The Certified Orthopedic Physician Assistant (OPA-C) must have equivalent qualifications, competence and function in the same role as employed individuals performing the same or similar services at the facility.</p>
<p><b>Definition of Care or Service:</b> The Certified Orthopedic Physician Assistant (OPA-C) assists under the direct supervision of the surgeon and takes direction from the surgeon in performing job responsibilities during the intraoperative phase and perioperative procedure. Scope of Service may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepares, sets up and maintains specific types of traction requested by the orthopedist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assists with orthopedic appliance application, maintenance and removal</li> <li>○ Fits and adjusts ambulation aids including canes, crutches and walkers</li> <li>○ Applies dressing to orthopedic surgery site</li> <li>○ Removes initial post-operative dressing from orthopedic surgery site</li> <li>○ Applies, maintains and removes plaster and synthetic casts</li> <li>○ Provides instruction to patients regarding orthopedic dressings and devices</li> </ul> </li> <li>• First assist with all procedures to include removal of sutures and drains, tissue retraction, suturing of tissues, cutting of suture, closing of the operative case, and application of any appropriate appliance</li> <li>• Maintains and secures patient data and records</li> <li>• Documents the procedure in the medical record</li> <li>• Demonstrates Clinical and Service excellence behaviors to include code of HCA Healthcare conduct core fundamentals in daily interactions with patients, families, co-workers and physicians</li> <li>• Maintains confidentiality and privacy in accordance with HIPAA regulations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Setting(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare facilities including but not limited to hospitals, outpatient treatment facilities, clinics and physician practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring may occur in all patient care areas, including Surgery, Emergency Department, Critical Care, and general acute settings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Supervision:</b> Direct supervision by Orthopedic Surgeon</p> <p><b>Evaluators:</b> Supervising orthopedist; department director or designee</p> <p><b>Tier Level:</b> 3</p> <p><b>eSAF Access Required:</b> YES</p>
<p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High school diploma/GED or higher</li> <li>• Successful completion of <b>one</b> of the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Orthopedic physician assistant training program</li> <li>○ Allied health care training program (ex. LVN, RN, Surgical Assistant) (Below experience required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ at least five (5) years of experience in orthopedic work with responsibility in surgical assisting, history and physical assessment, and immobilization techniques, under the supervision of a board-certified Orthopedic Surgeon (Letter from Orthopedic Surgeon required)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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- Current Certification as an Orthopedic Physician Assistants through the National Board for Certification of Orthopedic Physician Assistants
- American Heart Association or Red Cross health care provider BLS Certification

**NOTE:** Where education may not be defined in qualifications area of the Scope, HCA Healthcare requires the highest level of education completed (not training or courses) confirmed on your background check.

**State Requirements:**

- N/A

**Experience:**

- Minimum 1-2 years related experience and/or training in surgical assisting, history and physical assessment, and immobilization techniques

**Competencies:**

The Certified Orthopedic Physician Assistant (OPA-C) will demonstrate:

- Accurate patient information review and evaluation
  - Uses at least two ways to identify patients before treating or performing a procedure
  - Verifies that the requested procedure correlates with the patient’s clinical history, presentation and physician order
  - Participates in the pre-procedure (Universal Protocol) process to verify the correct procedure, for the correct patient, at the correct site and involves the patient in the verification process when possible
  - Accesses the patient medical record appropriately
  - Documents in the medical record according to the facility standard / policy
  - Participates in a time-out immediately before the start of an invasive procedure or making of the incision
- Safe and effective use of orthopedic equipment and products for treatment
  - Applies equipment/products according to orthopedist treatment orders
  - Follows the manufacturer’s recommendations for equipment and product utilization
  - Initiates orthopedic equipment/product safely and efficiently
  - Monitor’s patient tolerance of treatment including equipment/product
  - Reports treatment and patient tolerance to Primary RN
- Care of surgical site
  - Knowledge of suturing patient wounds, removing staples, managing wounds, incisions, fractures and splint and casting
  - Uses appropriate technique when applying dressing to surgical site
  - Demonstrates practices associated with infection prevention
- Delivers patient education for orthopedic treatments and equipment
  - Communicates effectively with patient and support system
  - Provides education to the patient for self-care and maintenance of orthopedic equipment
  - Reports outcome of patient education to Primary RN and / or Orthopedist
- Infection Prevention
  - Practices consistent hand hygiene according to policy
  - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Maintains current immunization for influenza
  - Complies with Isolation precautions
  - Current PPD

**References:**

National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Physician’s Assistant (NBCOPA) <https://nbcopa.org/>  
 OPA-C guide: [www.healthcareers.com/article/education/so-you-want-to-be-an-orthopedic-physician-assistant](http://www.healthcareers.com/article/education/so-you-want-to-be-an-orthopedic-physician-assistant)



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NBCOPA verification <https://nbcopa.org/verification/>

National Assoc of Ortho Technologist (NAOT): <https://www.naot.org/education/certification-opa-coa-c/>

**Your signature confirms you will be able to comply with the Qualifications and Competencies listed within this Scope of Service and that you will confirm education via your background check.**

**Applicant Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_