



DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

Division: SAN ANTONIO
Classification: CERTIFIED SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT
Applicant Name:

<p>Certified Surgical First Assistant: The Certified Surgical First Assistant must have equivalent qualifications, competence and function in the same role as employed individuals performing the same or similar services at the facility, as defined by facility job description.</p>
<p>Definition of Care or Service: The Certified Surgical First Assistant acts under the direction and supervision of the surgeon and in accordance with facility policies, procedures, AORN standards, related laws and regulations during a surgical procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practices in collaboration with the circulating RN and with other health care team members. • Does not concurrently function as the surgical technologist. • Only utilizes equipment they have been trained on and has the burden of proof to produce documentation if requested. • <u>Performs within the scope of service allowed by Methodist Healthcare</u>, even though they may have received training on tasks beyond what is allowable by the MHS Scope for non-physician first assistants. • Demonstrates Clinical and Service excellence behaviors to include HCA Healthcare code of conduct core fundamentals in daily interactions with patients, families, co-workers and physicians
<p>Setting(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical services areas including but not limited to hospitals and outpatient surgery centers
<p>Supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct supervision by surgeon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indirect supervision by surgery department director, site manager or designee ○ The surgical first assistant will secure a sponsoring/ supervising physician form for each physician they wish to provide.
<p>Evaluator: Sponsoring surgeon/supervising surgeon in conjunction with surgery department director or designee</p>
<p>Tier Level: 3</p>
<p>eSAF Access Required: YES</p>
<p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Diploma or higher • Successful completion of a CAAHEP accredited Surgical Assisting program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including all States/Provinces search in Accredited & Accredited Online/Distance Education under CAAHEP accredited program search ○ If school is no longer accredited, proof the student was enrolled during accreditation with CAAHEP is required • Maintain current Basic Life Support (BLS) certification issued by The American Heart Association • Must have and maintain one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CST- Certified Surgical Technologist through the National Board for Surgical Technology (NBSTSA) ○ TS-C- Tech in surgery, Certified through the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT)



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- **SA-C- Surgical Assistant, Certified** through the American Board of Surgical Assistants (ABSA)
- **CSA- Certified Surgical Assistant** through the National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA)
- **CSFA- Certified Surgical First Assistant** through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)

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 of two years perioperative experience in the surgical specialty in the last 4 years

Competencies:

The Certified Surgical First Assistant will demonstrate:

- Accurate patient information review and evaluation through:
 - Labels containers used for blood and specimens in the presence of the patient.
 - Labels all medications and solutions on and off the sterile field in perioperative and procedural settings according to hospital policy.
 - Participating in the pre-procedure process to verify the correct procedure, for the correct patient, at the correct site and involves the patient in the verification process when possible.
 - Participates in a time-out when called by the surgeon or another member of the surgical team immediately prior to the start of an invasive procedure or surgeon incision.
 - Accesses the patient medical record appropriately maintaining confidentiality & privacy in accordance with HIPAA regulations.
- Possess an advanced working knowledge of operating room fundamentals to include aseptic principles & techniques:
 - Surgical attire
 - Opening sterile packs & supplies
 - Opening sterile instruments
 - Scrubbing, gowning, & gloving
 - Surgical draping
 - Follows universal precautions
 - Follows facility hazardous materials management guidelines found on company (Intranet)
- Demonstrates principles of safe positioning of the surgical patient for the best exposure using appropriate positioning equipment to avoid circulatory & nerve injury to include any necessary padding of elbows, heels, eyes, face & axilla.
- Provides visualization of the operative site under direct supervision by the following:
 - Appropriate placement & securing of retractors with or without padding
 - Packing with sponges
 - Digital manipulation of tissue
 - Suctioning, irrigating, or sponging
 - Manipulation of suture materials
 - Uses proper body mechanics to prevent obstruction of the surgeon’s view of the field
- Utilizes appropriate permanent & temporary techniques under direct supervision to assist with hemostasis:
 - Permanent**



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- Clamping &/or cauterizing vessels & tissue
- Tying &/or ligating clamped vessels or tissue
- Applying hemostatic clips
- Placing local hemostatic agents

Temporary

- Applying vessel loops
- Applying non-crushing clamps
- Applying direct digital pressure
- Monitors sterile field during procedure & takes appropriate measures to insure integrity of sterile field & maintenance of sterile techniques. Initiates corrective action for any break in technique.
 - Avoids contamination of sterile drapes, personnel, & instruments
 - Communicates any witnessed or suspected contamination to surgical team
- The surgical first assistant has a general working knowledge of:
 - Pre-operative deficits
 - Possible post-operative outcomes
- Appropriately handle non -controlled medications as directed by a licensed team member.
 - Follows facility policy for verification and labeling of medications in operative and procedural areas
 - Has injected local anesthetic consistently at the direction of the supervising physician with good patient outcomes
- Maintains adequate knowledge about utilized equipment operation and basic troubleshooting.* The surgical first assistant has the burden of proof to show documentation of training*
 - Has been trained and can validate correct operation of any utilized equipment
 - Reports any equipment not functioning correctly immediately to a facility staff member
 - Has been trained and can demonstrate basic troubleshooting of any utilized equipment
- Assists surgeon with the placement of implants under direct supervision.
- Consistently assists in maintaining patient's expected physiologic responses to surgery:
 - Latex allergy
 - Malignant Hyperthermia
 - Infection Prevention
 - SCIP measures & practices
 - Wound management
 - Instrument processing & sterilization/disinfection practices
- Utilizes appropriate techniques to assist with closure of body planes under a minimum of general periop supervision. Closes skin with the method indicated by surgeon:
 - Sutures
 - Utilizes running or interrupted subcutaneous sutures with absorbable or non-absorbable material
 - Utilizes subcuticular closure technique with or without skin closure strips
 - Postoperative subcutaneous injection of local anesthetic agent as directed by the surgeon
 - Staples



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- Selects & applies appropriate wound dressings to include:
 - Spray/liquid/adhesive occlusive material
 - Absorbent material affixed with tape or circumferential wrapping
 - Immobilizing dressing
- Provides assistance in securing drainage systems to tissue
- Appropriately removes sutures &/or staples
- Consistently assists in maintaining a safe environment to facilitate a safe patient outcome.
 - Any equipment to assist with positioning (fracture table, Jackson table, Wilson frame, positioning devices, etc.)
 - Basic OR equipment (lights, suction, O₂)
 - Powered equipment
 - Minimally invasive equipment (light sources, endoscopes, insufflation devices)
 - Radiation safety
 - Laser safety
 - Electrosurgical safety
 - Surgical counts
 - Fire Safety
 - Facility Time-Out & universal protocol
 - Safe handling of specimens
- Infection Prevention
 - Practices consistent hand hygiene
 - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Required immunizations per DHP Division requirements
 - Complies with Isolation precautions
 - Maintains sterile field
- **ROBOTIC SURGERY:** Request for privileges to place SUBSEQUENT trocars under direct supervision must be granted by the facility prior to performing. This does not include the provision to place trocars on non-robotic laparoscopic procedures.
 - Has inserted subsequent (NOT INITIAL) trocars without complication and with good patient outcomes under direct supervision.
- **SAPHENOUS VEIN HARVESTING:** Request for privileges to perform saphenous vein harvesting under direct supervision must be granted by the facility prior to performing.
 - Has performed saphenous vein harvesting without complication and with good patient outcomes under direct supervisionMaintains adequate knowledge about endoscopic harvesting equipment operation and troubleshooting.

References:

Association of periOperative Room Nurses (AORN) (2009). *Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices 2009 Edition*. AORN, Inc.: Denver.

Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) (2009). *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Assisting: Job Description: Surgical Assistant*. Retrieved from www.AST.org.

Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) (2001). *Role Definitions and Qualifications for the Certified Surgical Technologist and Certified First Assistant*. Retrieved from www.AST.org.

Cairns, Carol. (2007). *Solving the AHP Conundrum: How to Comply with HR Standards Related to Non-privileged*



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Practitioners (Figure A.13). HCPro, Inc.: Marblehead, MA, 97-102.

Credentialing Resource Center (2006). *Clinical Privilege White Paper: Surgical First Assistant (Practice area 180).* A supplement to *Briefings on Credentialing*. Opus communications: Marblehead, MA.

Rothrock, Jane C. (2009). *Assisting in Surgery: Patient-Centered Care*. Competency & Credentialing Institute.

NBSTSA CSFA Verification <https://www.nbstsa.org/verify-credentials>

NCCT Verification <https://www.ncctinc.com/general/VerifyCertification.aspx>

NSAA Verification <https://www.nsaa.net/csa-finder/>

Document Control:

- Previously named Surgical First Assistant
- Content updates 5/23/2019
- Cosmetic updates 7/29/2019

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: _____