



# DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

<b>Division: SAN ANTONIO</b>
<b>Classification: REGISTERED NURSE FIRST ASSISTANT (RNFA)</b>
<b>Applicant Name:</b>

<p><b>Registered Nurse First Assistant:</b> The Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) 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><b>Definition of Care or Service:</b> The Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) is a perioperative registered nurse who works under the direct supervision of a surgeon and applies knowledge, skill, and judgment necessary to assist the surgeon in performing a safe operation that yields optimal results for the patient. RNFA acts under the direction and supervision of the surgeon and in accordance with facilities policies, procedures, AORN standards, related laws and regulations during a surgical procedure. Scope of Service may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively participates in and provides aid in exposure, hemostasis, and other technical functions that will help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient.</li> <li>• Must be educated in the use of surgical instruments on tissues versus the handling of instruments.</li> <li>• Works under the direction and supervision of the surgeon and in accordance with MHS policies, procedures, AORN standards, Texas Nursing Practice Act, Texas Board of Nursing, related laws, and regulations.</li> <li>• Practices in collaboration with the circulating RN and with other health care team members.</li> <li>• Does not concurrently function as the surgical technologist.</li> <li>• As directed by the physician, makes patient rounds, apply the nursing process (assessment, planning, intervention, &amp; evaluation), changes dressing, removes sutures, performs patient teaching, discharge planning, and/or document in the patient medical record (must be countersigned by physician within 24 hours)</li> <li>• Assist surgeon in use of DaVinci Robot (see Qualifications for specific requirements)</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> </ul>
<p><b>Setting(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical services areas including but not limited to hospitals and outpatient surgery centers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supervision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct supervision by surgeon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indirect supervision by surgery department director, site manager or designee</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The first assistant will secure a sponsoring/ supervising physician form for each physician they wish to provide.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgeon / supervising physician in conjunction with surgery department director or designee</li> </ul> <p><b>Tier Level: 3</b></p> <p><b>eSAF Access Required: YES</b></p>



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**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  - Prior to January 1, 2020 a Baccalaureate degree is not required, a professional Associate or Diploma Nursing Program is required with verification of work history in the RNFA role or proof of enrollment in an RNFA program.
    - Verification of high school graduation/GED is required for those with a nursing associate degree or diploma.
- Successful completion of an RNFA program that meets AORN standards for RN first assistant education and is accepted by the National Assistant at Surgery Certification (NASCC)
- CNOR Certification
- American Heart Association BLS Certification
- American Heart Association ACLS Certification

**Additional Qualifications:**

- Evidence of additional training and proctoring with DaVinci Robot (Only required if assisting surgeon with DaVinci Robot) (Can be found on Skills Checklist)
- Please verify if you will be operating the DaVinci Robot
  - Will you operate the DaVinci Robot? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

**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:**

- Valid Texas RN license

**Experience:**

- Minimum of two years recent perioperative experience in the surgical specialty

**Competencies:**

The Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) 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 facility (Intranet)



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- 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
    - 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
  - Intraoperative injuries
  - 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 RN 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



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- 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
  - 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
- Makes rounds in addition to physician, not in lieu of and/or conveys physician verbal orders; documentation in the patient medical record must be countersigned by physician within 24 hours. The nurse must not dictate history & physicals or operative reports.
- Consistently applies nursing process (including assessment, planning, intervention, and evaluation), performs necessary patient teaching, and discharge planning; documents in patient medical record and communicates information to necessary caregivers
- Infection Prevention
  - Practices consistent hand hygiene
  - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Required immunizations per DHP Division requirements
  - Complies with Isolation precautions
- **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.



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- **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 supervision
  - Maintains 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](http://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](http://www.AST.org).

Cairns, Carol. (2007). *Solving the AHP Conundrum: How to Comply with HR Standards Related to Non-privileged Practitioners (Figure A.13)*. HCPPro, 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.

Texas Board of Nursing (2011). Scope of Practice. [www.bne.state.tx.us/practice/apn-scopeofpractice.html](http://www.bne.state.tx.us/practice/apn-scopeofpractice.html).

AORN: <https://www.aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/rn-first-assistant-resources>

CCI CNOR Verification: <https://www.cc-institute.org/cnor>

RNFA Program Verification: <https://nascertification.com/resources/acceptable-rnfa-programs/>

Texas Board of Nursing License: <https://www.bon.texas.gov/>

Nursys: <https://www.nursys.com/LQC/LQCTerms.aspx>

**Document Control:**

- Revised Content 9/20/2016
- Revised Cosmetic 4/29/2019
- Revised Content 11/25/2019

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