



## DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

**Division: SOUTH ATLANTIC**

**Classification: SURGICAL ASSISTANT (RN)**

**Applicant Name:**

**Surgical Assistant (RN):**

The Surgical Assistant (RN) 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.

**Definition of Care or Service:**

The Surgical Assistant (RN) is a Registered Nurse who works under the direct supervision and in the physical presence of a surgeon and is employed by that surgeon or to the group/practice to which that surgeon belongs. The Surgical Assistant- RN works in collaboration with the surgeon and other health care team members to achieve optimal patient outcomes. Scope of Service may include:

- Performs focused preoperative nursing assessments
- Communicates and collaborates with other health care providers regarding the patient plan of care
- Participates in postoperative rounds and assists with patient discharge planning
- Helps in draping sterile field
- Checks supplies and equipment needed for surgical procedure
- Scrubs, gowns, and gloves
- Gowns and gloves surgeon and assistants
- Maintains highest standard of sterile technique during procedure
- Passes instruments and other appropriate items to surgeon and assistants during procedure
- Participates in appropriate surgical counts with the circulator prior to the operation and before incision is closed as per hospital policy
- Prepares sterile dressings
- Holds retractors or instruments as directed by the surgeon
- Sponges or suctions operative site
- Applies electro cautery to clamps on bleeders
- Connects drains to suction apparatus
- Cuts suture material as directed by the surgeon
- Applies dressings to closed wound
- Positions the patient
- Provides visualization of the operative site
- Utilizes appropriate techniques to assist with hemostasis
- Utilizes appropriate techniques to assist with closure of subcutaneous tissue and skin
  - Includes postoperative subcutaneous injection of local anesthetic as directed by the surgeon
- Selects and applies appropriate wound dressings
- Provides assistance in securing drainage systems to tissue
- Applies tourniquets and demonstrates awareness of indication/contra indications
- Applies vessel loops, clamps, and direct digital pressure

**Setting(s):**

- Surgical services areas including but not limited to hospital OR, Labor and Delivery, Cath Lab, Radiology



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**Supervision:**

- Direct supervision by surgeon and in the presence of the surgeon
  - Indirect supervision by surgery department director, site manager or designee

**Evaluator:** Surgeon / supervising physician in conjunction with surgery department director or designee

**Tier Level:** 3

**Qualifications:**

- Associate's Degree or Higher
- Current RN License

**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:**

- Current and active license in practicing state.

**Experience:**

- Minimum one 1 year Operating Room experience.

**Preferred Experience:**

- Minimum one 1 year as an Surgical Assistant-RN

**Competencies:**

The Surgical Assistant (RN) will demonstrate:

- Safe environment for patients
  - Uses at least two ways to identify patients before treating or performing a procedure
  - 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
  - Participates in the pre-procedure process to verify the correct procedure, for the correct patient, at the correct site / side and involves the patient in the verification process when possible.
- Participates in Universal protocol immediately before the start of an invasive procedure
- RN Surgical Assistant Skills
  - Assist with positioning, prepping, draping of patient
  - Provide visualization of the operative field by the use of retraction, scalpel, scissors, or electrocautery, as directed by the surgeon
  - Assists the surgeon in providing hemostasis by:
    - Applying electrocautery tip to clamp or tissue in a safe manner, as directed by surgeon
    - Sponging and utilizing pressure
    - Providing suction
    - Applying clamps on vessels and the tying or electrocoagulation of them, as directed by the surgeon
    - Placing suture ligatures in tissue, as directed by the surgeon
    - Placing hemoclips on vessels, as directed by the surgeon (in cardiac surgery only)
  - Provides closure of subcutaneous and skin layers
  - Performs suturing and stapling (external staples only)
  - Assists the surgeon at the completion of the procedure by:
    - Affixing and stabilizing drains
    - Cleansing the wound and applying the dressing
    - Assist with application of cast, splints, and other devices
  - Inserts and removes urinary catheter and nasogastric tubes



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- Injects local anesthetic into operative field
- Harvests and prepares graft tissues (in cardiac surgery only)
- Participates in appropriate surgical counts with the circulator prior to the operation and before incision is closed as per hospital policy
- Infection prevention
  - Practices consistent hand hygiene
  - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Complies with Isolation precautions
  - Complies with required surgical attire
  - Maintains sterile field

### References:

- HB 1718 Session 2005, amended Nursing Practice Act Section 301.353

### Document Control:

- Created 11/30/2017
- Content updates 11/14/2019

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