

**MIDLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMING AS A PHYSICIAN'S  
CERTIFIED SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST/FIRST ASSISTANT (CERTIFIED SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST/FA)**

**I. DEFINITION**

The Certified Surgical Technologist/First Assistant must have acquired the necessary specific knowledge, skill, and judgment to participate and actively assist the surgeon. The First Assistant provides aid in exposure, hemostasis, and other technical functions which help the surgeon. The Certified Surgical Technologist/First Assistant practices **under the supervision of the surgeon** during the intraoperative phase of the perioperative experience.

**II. QUALIFICATIONS**

- A Certified Surgical Technologist/First Assistant must meet the following qualifications to be considered for appointment to the Allied Health Professional staff.
- Must have at least current LVN licensure in Texas or be a Certified Surgical Technologist (which includes graduation from a training program of surgical technology accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation).
- Minimum of 3 years perioperative experience (scrubbing).
- Completion of a First Assistance program accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) or the Liaison Council on Certification. (Successful completion of a First Assistant program includes didactic and at least 120 hours of a clinical component).
- Successful completion of test as outlined by the Liaison Council on Certification. Must be a Certified Surgical Technologist with current certification who has worked as a First Assistant for at least two of the last four years.
- Must provide verification from two persons, either surgeons or hospital supervisors, that your work as a First Assistant for the two years you claim meets the following definition: "As defined by the American College of Surgeons, the first assistant 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. This role will vary considerably with the surgical operation, specialty areas, and type of facility." Persons verifying your work must be an M.D., D.O., or R.N.
- Certification by the National Surgical Assistant Association.
- Able to apply principles of asepsis, sterile technique and infection control.
- Have knowledge of surgical anatomy, physiology, and operative technique as it relates to the surgical procedures on which the First Assistant will be assisting.
- Basics Cardiac Life Support (minimum).
- Current TB screening.
- Professional liability/malpractice insurance coverage issued by a recognized company and a type and in an amount equal to or greater than the limits established by the governing board.

**III. DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES**

The following duties a Certified Surgical Technologist/First Assistant may perform under the direction of a physician:

- Perform First Assistant duties in accordance with the Medical Practice Act of Texas.
- Assist in the positioning, skin preparation, and draping of the patient.
- Provide hemostasis, wound exposure, handle tissue appropriately to reduce the potential for injury, and apply dressings to the wound.
- Use surgical instruments skillfully in ways consistent with their design and purpose.
- Closure of all wound layers (fascia, subcutaneous and skin) as per surgeon's directive.
- In cases of extreme emergency, when the surgeon is unable to complete the procedure, the Certified Surgical Tehcnologist/First Assistant will maintain hemostasis until another surgeon arrives.
- Assist in transporting the patient postoperatively.
- Communicate information to the PACU staff as appropriate.

**IV. ORIENTATION**

These Allied Health Professionals must be oriented to Midland Memorial Hospital's Operating Room Policies and Procedures and must have their sterile technique assessed by the Surgical Educator.

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Practitioner's Printed Name

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Supervising Physician's Printed Name

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Practitioner's Signature

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Supervising Physician's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Section Chief/Department Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date