

MIDLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMING AS A
REGISTERED NURSE SURGICAL ASSISTANT

I. DEFINITION

The Registered Nurse Surgical Assistant assists the surgeon in performing a safe operation with optimal outcomes for the patient. The Registered Nurse Surgical Assistant practices **under the supervision of the surgeon** during the intraoperative phase of the perioperative experience.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

An RN Surgical Assistant must meet the following qualifications to be considered for appointment to the Allied Health Professional staff:

- Current RN licensure in Texas.
- Able to apply principles of asepsis and infection control.
- 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.
- Current TB screening (required upon initial application and at reappointment), and if applicable, one-time mask fit-testing.
- Basic Cardiac Life Support (minimum).

III. DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

The following are duties the RN Surgical Assistant may perform under the direction of a physician:

- Hand instruments.
- Suction.
- Sponge.
- Cut Suture.
- Retract tissue.
- Check surgical supplies and instruments for completeness.
- Assist the physician in hemostasis.
- Apply dressings.
- Remove skin sutures and staples when ordered by the doctor.
- Make rounds with the physician.
- Change dressings as ordered by the doctor.
- Assist physician with treatments or procedures performed in the patient's room or treatment room.
- Closure of all wound layers (fascia, subcutaneous and skin) – will be allowed upon written request by the supervising physician, attesting to training and competency to perform closure. (attached attestation must be signed by supervising physician)

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. They must also complete MMH's general orientation for Allied Health Professionals.

Practitioner's Printed Name

Supervising Physician's Printed Name

Practitioner's Signature

Supervising Physician's Signature

Section Chief/Department Chair

Date

MIDLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
STATEMENT OF SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN
FOR REGISTERED NURSE SURGICAL ASSISTANT
TO PERFORM CLOSURE

I hereby verify _____, applicant for Allied Health Professional privileges at Midland Memorial Hospital, is in my employment and/or under my supervision as a Registered Nurse Surgical Assistant. _____ is competent to perform surgical closure of all wound layers (fascia, subcutaneous and skin) as stated in the "Description of Duties" section of the *Allied Health Professional's Guidelines for Performing as a Physician's Registered Nurse Surgical Assistant*. Further, I hereby verify that I have conducted on-the-job training and instruction with the applicant and I am attesting to competency to perform surgical closure, or, I verified on-the-job training in his/her prior employment and _____ has demonstrated his/her technique to me prior to performing surgical closure at Midland Memorial Hospital.

Signature of Employing/Supervising Medical Staff Member

Date

Name of Employing/Supervising Medical Staff Member

Signature of Allied Health Professional Applicant

Date

Name of Allied Health Professional Applicant