

# Preferred Surgicenter, LLC

## Job Description

**Job Title:** Register Surgical Assistant  
**Department:** Surgery Center  
**Reports to:** Director of Surgical Services  
**Approved by:** Medical Director  
**Approved Date:** 1/6/2015

### **JOB DESCRIPTION: SURGICAL ASSISTANT**

The Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Assisting have been approved by the Association of Surgical Assistants (ASA), American College of Surgeons (ACS), Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology (ARC/STSA), Subcommittee on Accreditation for Surgical Assisting (SASA), and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and include this description of the profession of surgical assisting:

**Summary:** As defined, surgical assistants provide aid in exposure, hemostasis, closure, and other intraoperative technical functions that help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. In addition to intraoperative duties, the surgical assistant also performs preoperative and postoperative duties to better facilitate proper patient care. The surgical assistant performs these functions under the direction and supervision of the surgeon and in accordance with hospital policy and appropriate laws and regulations.

### **EDUCATION**

The Fullerton Surgery Center strongly supports adequate education and training of all surgical assistants, supports the accreditation of all surgical assisting educational programs, and supports examination for certification of all graduates of accredited surgical assistant educational programs.

Fullerton Surgery Center recommends that surgical assistants graduate from surgical assisting programs accredited by CAAHEP through ARC/STSA, which is a collaborative effort of AST, ACS, and SASA. CAAHEP is a recognized accreditation agency of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The Joint Commission or a state agency acceptable to CAAHEP and the ARC/STSA.

## **Essential Duties and Responsibilities are:**

General Overview of Courses Include:

- Principles of Surgical Assisting
- General Biology
- Microbiology
- Surgical Assisting Internships
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Surgical Pathophysiology
- Wound Closure and Wound Management

### **ROLE OF THE SURGICAL ASSISTANT**

The surgical assistant is responsible for assisting the surgeon under direct and indirect supervision throughout preoperative, intraoperative, and post-operative duties and procedures at all times.

#### **1. Preoperative**

The surgical assistant facilitates the safe positioning of the patient according to the surgeon's preference, patient's anatomical and physiological limits, and surgical procedure to be performed. A preoperative introduction visit may be done to assess the surgical site to better aid in positioning. Assists circulator and anesthesia provider in preparation of the patient to include but not limited to: Foley catheter placement, tourniquet application, placement of intravenous catheters, cricoid pressure application, and other procedures as needed.

#### **2. Intraoperative**

The surgical assistant performs specific tasks according to individual surgeon preference utilizing appropriate techniques including, but not limited to: incision and layered closure of surgical sites, providing exposure, achieving hemostasis by means of injection, manual, and topical methods, and application of appropriate energy sources, manipulation and dissection/removal of tissues, aides in implanting, securing, and/or removal of devices and drains, and applying appropriate dressing material specific to procedure.

#### **3. Postoperative**

The surgical assistant applies any other specific dressing material such as splints or casts, assesses skin integrity, assists in transfer of the patient, and follows the patient to recovery if needed or directed by surgeon.

#### **4. Specialty Procedures**

The surgical assistant who has appropriate training also performs under surgeon supervision other procedures including but not limited to: vein and graft harvesting, and graft and implant preparation.

### 5. Additional Duties

The surgical assistant performs additional duties as delegated by the surgeon in cooperation with state and local policy.

### **Computer skills**

To perform this job successfully, an individual should have knowledge of internet software and Word processing software.

### **Licensing Requirements**

Like all physician assistants, surgical assistants must meet state licensing requirements. The BLS reports that all states require individuals to successfully complete the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam.

Employee Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_