

## **REGULATION 40**

### **ARKANSAS SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS**

#### **1. DEFINITIONS:**

- A.** “Surgical technologist” means an individual who performs the skills and techniques of surgical technology under the direction and supervision of a licensed practitioner other than in the course of practicing as a licensed healthcare professional; and
- B.** “Surgical technology” means surgical patient care that includes without limitation:
- (1)** Preparing an operating room and a sterile field for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is assembled and functioning properly and safely;
  - (2)** Preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment using sterile technique;
  - (3)** Performing tasks in a sterile field, including:
    - (a)** Maintaining asepsis and a sterile operating field;
    - (b)** Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments according to the needs of the surgical team;
    - (c)** Sponging or suctioning an operative site;
    - (d)** Preparing and cutting suture material;
    - (e)** Providing irrigation solutions to the supervising physician and irrigating an operative site;
    - (f)** Providing drugs within the sterile field for administration by the supervising physician;
    - (g)** Handling specimens;
    - (h)** Holding retractors and other instruments;
    - (i)** Applying electrocautery to clamp on blood vessels;
    - (j)** Connecting drains to a suction apparatus;
    - (k)** Applying dressing to closed wounds; and
    - (l)** Performing counts of supplies such as sponges, needles, and instruments with the registered nurse circulator; and
  - (4)** The practice of surgical technology is a separate and distinct healthcare profession that does not include the practice of surgical assisting as performed by physician assistants, surgical assistants, or first assistants.

#### **2. REGISTRATION:**

The Arkansas State Medical Board shall register as a surgical technologist an applicant who:

- A.** Successfully completed a nationally accredited surgical technology program and holds a current credential as a certified surgical technologist from the National Board

- of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting or its successor or a national organization approved by the Arkansas State Medical Board;
- B.** Has successfully completed a surgical technologist training program during the person's service as a member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces; or
  - C.** Has been employed to practice as a surgical technologist at any time within the six (6) months before July 1, 2017, if the applicant registers with the Arkansas State Medical Board on or before July 1, 2018.

**3. TITLE PROTECTION:**

A person shall not use or assume the title "registered surgical technologist" unless the person is registered with the Arkansas State Medical Board.

**4. RENEWAL:**

In order to maintain registration, each individual who holds a surgical technologist registration must renew the registration each year.

**5. FEES:**

The Board will charge an application fee of \$25.00 and an annual renewal fee of \$10.00 for surgical technologists registered with the Board.