

## DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

<b>Division: MIDAMERICA</b>
<b>Classification: CERTIFIED SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANT</b>
<b>Applicant Name:</b>
<p><b>Certified Surgical First Assistant:</b> The Certified Surgical First Assistant 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.</p>
<p><b>Definition of Care or Service:</b> The Certified Surgical First Assistant is a specifically trained individual who provides assisting services for the surgeon in both the preparation for and performance of surgery. Scope of Service may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists the surgeon by providing retraction and aiding exposure of the operative site.</li> <li>• Anticipates the moves of the surgeon and assists in the safe and efficient completion of the surgical procedure</li> <li>• Facilitates hemostasis of the surgical site by performing suction, irrigation and sponging the operative site during a surgical procedure</li> <li>• Assists with skin or external suturing and stapling</li> <li>• Assists with securing drainage systems and dressings</li> <li>• Demonstrates Clinical and Service excellence behaviors to include code of HCA Healthcare conduct core fundamentals in daily interactions with patients, families, co-workers and physicians.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Setting(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical services areas including but not limited to hospitals and outpatient surgery centers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supervision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct supervision by surgeon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indirect supervision by surgery department director, site manager or designee</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluator:</b> Surgeon/supervising physician in conjunction with surgery department director or designee</p> <p><b>Tier Level:</b> 3</p> <p><b>eSAF Access Required:</b> Yes</p>
<p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High School Diploma/GED or higher</li> <li>• Completion of training from <b>one</b> of the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Surgical First Assistant Training Program</li> <li>○ US military-trained in surgical assisting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Current certification by one of the following national examinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)</li> <li>○ National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA) as a CSA</li> <li>○ American Board of Surgical Assistants (ABSA) as a SA-C</li> <li>○ National Assistant at Surgery Council (NASC)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• American Heart Association health care provider BLS Certification</li> </ul> <p><b>Preferred Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preferred - Approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)</li> </ul>

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or approved by the Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologists (LCC-ST) or approved by the National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA)

**NOTE: ALL EDUCATION and TRAINING MUST BE VERIFIED BY A THIRD PARTY FOR THE U.S. AND OUTSIDE THE U.S.**

**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:

- N/A

### Experience:

- N/A

### Preferred Experience:

- Two years of experience as a certified surgical first assistant is preferred.

### Competencies:

The Certified Surgical First Assistant 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 a time-out immediately before the start of an invasive procedure
- Surgical First Assistant Skills
  - Assist with positioning, prepping, draping of patient
  - Provide visualization of the operative field by the use of retraction, 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 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
  - Harvests and prepares graft tissues (in cardiac surgery only)
- Infection Prevention
  - Practices consistent hand hygiene
  - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Required immunizations per Division requirements
  - Complies with Isolation precautions
  - Maintains sterile field



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**References:**

NBSTSA: <https://www.nbstsa.org/verify-credentials>

Credential Resource Clinical Privilege White Paper on Surgical Assistants

The ABSA is a privately held for profit company that issues the SA-C certificate <https://www.absa.net/>

The NBSTSA is an NCCA accredited certifying body that issues a CST certificate for surgical technologists and the CSFA certificate to surgical assistants <https://www.nbstsa.org/verify-credentials>

The NSAA, through its certifying board, the NCCSA, which is in the process of NCCA accreditation, issues the CSA certificate to surgical assistants <https://www.csaexam.com/verify-csa/>

NSAA: <https://www.nsaa.net/>

**Document Control:**

- Content updates 3/15/2018
- Content updates 3/20/2020

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