



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
OPERATING ROOM
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: ROLE OF SCRUB NURSE / TECHNICIAN

Policy No.: OR73
Supersedes: ALL
Reviewed Date: 01/2016
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Purpose: To differentiate the role of the Scrub Nurse / Technician and the First Assistant.

Policy Statement: No nursing personnel functioning in the scrub technician role, either surgical technician or Registered Nurse, will perform duties of a first assistant.

Definitions:

Scrub Technician: A person who performs a surgical scrub (arms and hands), dons sterile gowns / mask / gloves, stands within the sterile field, and provides sterile instruments and other items to the surgical team during a surgical procedure. The scrub person is a member of the sterile team and is either a nurse or surgical technician.

First Assistant: A Registered Nurse credentialed to assist the surgeon during the intraoperative phase of the perioperative experience. The RN First Assistant is credentialed as a CNOR (Certified Nurse in Perioperative Nursing) and as a RNFA (Registered Nurse, First Assistant). Intraoperative behaviors include handling tissue, providing exposure, using instruments, suturing, and providing homeostasis. The RN First Assistant does not concurrently function as a scrub nurse.

Revised by: Susie Choi, RN, BSN, CNOR and Alina Genie-Fernandez, RN, BSN, CNOR

References:

Association of Operating Room Nurses, Inc.
Guidelines for perioperative practice 2015 edition "Introduction to perioperative Nursing"

05/06 - Reviewed
09/09 - Reviewed
10/12 - Reviewed
01/16 - Reviewed

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/2009
APPROVED BY: Practice Council

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Signature(s) on File.