

NORTHWEST HOSPITAL - Seattle, Washington
SURGICAL ASSISTANT (Non-Physician)

CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENT

The Surgical Assistant title is granted to personnel with a wide variety of backgrounds in training and experience. The title implies capability to perform a range of functions designed to assist a licensed surgeon. The scope of practice is limited by the law of the State of Washington, clarifying which licensed or certified allied health professionals may perform these functions and to what extent. The scope is further defined and limited by the Medical Staff Organization of Northwest Hospital.

The functions of surgical assistance can be performed as part of a larger job description (as for an ARNP) or can be the total scope of the privileges granted the individual (as for a Certified Surgical Assistant.)

Northwest Hospital Medical Staff Organization has three categories of Surgical Assistants. The categories are defined by eligibility and scope.

Category I	Category II	Category III
Dental Assistant	Physician Assistant-Surgical Assistant (PA-SA)	Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)
Certified Surgical Technician	Certified RN First Assistant (CRN-FA)	Physician Assistant -Certified (PA-C)
RN Scrub	RN First Assistant (RN-FA)	

An applicant for Surgical Assistant privileges shall:

- 1) Have a completed application to NWH Medical Staff which shall include documentation of:
 - a. Malpractice insurance coverage;
 - b. Education and training, including sterile technique and experience in area of anatomy/specialty requested; ARNP must have documentation of completion of didactic **and** clinical practicum in OR.
 - c. Copy of appropriate licensure/certification as follows:
 - 1) If Surgical Technician, copy of certification and evidence of completion of Surgical Assisting course.
 - 2) If RN, copy of State License and CNOR certification or equivalent;
 - 3) If ARNP, copy of State RN License, ARNP license, and Prescriptive Authority;

- 4) If Physician Assistant, copy of State license and approved Physician Assistant Practice Plan filed with the state of Washington Medical Quality Assurance Commission, stating intent to function as Surgical Assistant;
- 2) Be an employee of physician(s) on Medical Staff at Northwest Hospital who is identified as sponsor and/or have a written contractual agreement with physician;

OR,

 Provide names and addresses of three surgeons who have utilized applicant as Surgical Assistant within the last year;
- 3) Provide documentation of experience within the last year in area of anatomy/specialty requested; or have graduated within the last year from a program that included clinical experience.
- 4). Sign an agreement to practice within the Surgical Assistant Roles and Limitations of Practice; to limit practice only to those areas of practice specifically requested and granted in writing, and to adhere to the Northwest Hospital Medical Staff Bylaws and Rules and Regulations as they apply.

REAPPOINTMENT

To maintain privileges as a surgical assistant, applicants will, at time of reappointment, provide documentation of :

- 1) Current license and insurance as required above;
- 2) Evidence of sufficient activity (at NWH or elsewhere) in the reappointment interval to support competence in the area of privileges requested; and
- 3) A letter of continued support from up to three surgeons who utilize(d) SA services. (Surgical Assistants employed by surgeons would need only a letter from the employer(s). Those Surgical Assistants who practice as independent contractors are required to provide a maximum of three letters of support.)

TERMINATION

Appointment can be terminated at any time if:

- 1) There is no known activity at this hospital or elsewhere.
- 2) There is evidence of lack of competence in requested privileges; or
- 3) Competence or professional conduct is such that it is considered disruptive to the operations of the hospital.

APPROVALS

Surgical Audit Committee:	September 29, 1998
Credentials Committee:	November 6, 1998
Executive Committee:	November 9, 1998
Quality Standards:	February 20, 1999