



Applicant's Name

**SCOPE OF PRACTICE
RN First Assistant**

Age range of patient population is limited to the patient population defined within the surgeon's delineation of privileges.

PART I: DEFINITION

A RN First Assistant is defined as a registered nurse who is licensed by the New York State Education Department as a Professional Registered Nurse and who functions as the first assistant to the operating surgeon during the operative procedure and provides comprehensive nursing management of care during the operative phase. The RNFA intraoperatively practices at the direction of the surgeon. The RNFA does not concurrently function as the scrub nurse.

PART II: QUALIFICATIONS

1. Successful completion of an RN First Assistant course and internship that meets the AORN Standards for RN First Assistant Education Programs.
2. Bachelor's Degree (BS/BA) is required for new RNFA's effective September 26, 2014. If the RNFA does not have a Bachelor's Degree upon their initial appointment, it must be obtained within three years.
3. Current CNOR/AORN (certification in perioperative nursing)
4. Advanced nurse practitioners and midwives are exempt from the CNOR, but must provide proof of successful completion of an advanced nurse practitioner or midwifery program and maintain certification by a nationally recognized certification program.
5. Certification in CPR.
6. Minimum of 3 years diversified perioperative nursing experience, both scrubbing and circulating required.

PART III: PRACTICE RELATIONSHIPS:

RN First Assistants function as the assistant to the operating surgeon during the operative procedures and provide comprehensive nursing management of care during the peri-operative phase. The RNFA does not concurrently function as a scrub nurse.

PART IV: CORE PROCEDURE LIST (accorded to practitioners that meet the requirements of education, training, and certification as noted above)

A. Assists the surgeon during the operative procedure as the first assistant

- ◆ Applies knowledge of surgical anatomy, physiology and operative technique relative to operative procedures.
- ◆ Performs positioning, prepping and draping of patient.
- ◆ Provides homeostasis by clamping blood vessels, coagulating bleeding points, ligating vessels and by other means as directed by surgeon.
- ◆ Provides exposure through appropriate use of instruments, retractors, suctioning and sponging techniques.
- ◆ Handling and/or cutting tissue as directed by surgeon during operative procedure.
- ◆ Performs wound closure as directed by surgeon; sutures the peritoneum, fascia, subcutaneous tissue and skin.
- ◆ Performs RN first assistant interventions in collaboration with and under the direction of the operating surgeon.

B. Provides comprehensive approach to surgical patient care using knowledge and skills of professional nursing.

- ◆ Provides preoperative patient assessment and teaching.
- ◆ Identifies patient hazards and participates in quality improvement and initiates appropriate corrective action.
- ◆ Applies principles of asepsis and infection control.
- ◆ Applies surgical dressing and assists with transferring patients from operating room.
- ◆ Performs post-operative patient evaluation and teaching.

RNFAs are permitted to function within their approved Scope of Practice only under the direction of a member of the Medical Dental Staff with surgical privileges.

Practitioner's Signature

Date

Chief of Service's Signature

Date

Allied Health Professional Representative

Date

Revised: 05/2016