



Position Statement on First Assisting

As defined by the American College of Surgeons, the first assistant provides aid in exposure, hemostasis, and other technical functions, that will help the surgeon carry out a safe operation with optimal results for the patient. This role will vary considerably with the surgical operation, specialty area, and type of facility.

The Association of Surgical Technologists, Inc., recognizes the first assistant and scrub technologist roles are differentiated by education. First assistants must be educated in the use of surgical instruments on tissues versus the handling of instruments.

Certified Surgical Technologists with additional specialized education or training may function as first/surgical assistants to the surgeon at the operating table in those situations or facilities where more completely trained assistants are not available.

Practice privileges of those acting as first/surgical assistants should be based upon verified credentials reviewed and approved by the appropriate credentialing committee.

Footnote: The second assistant retracts and suction.