



Adopted October 2005

**POSITION STATEMENT
INTRAOPERATIVE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ENDOSCOPE BY
THE CST AND SURGICAL ASSISTANT**

The performance and complexity of minimally invasive procedures have greatly increased which has contributed to the expanding role and duties of the CST and surgical assistant, in particular, as related to the performance of endoscopic surgical procedures. The Association of Surgical Technologists recognizes that the CST and surgical assistant are called upon to perform intraoperative tasks, under the direction of the surgeon, which contribute to the efficient and safe conduct of the operation. This includes advancing the endoscope through the sheath, maintaining the position of the endoscope in a manner that provides optimal visualization of the body organs for the surgeon, and moving the endoscope in a manner to maintain the optimal visualization under the broad delegatory authority of the physician, as defined by the American College of Surgeons, the provisions for which vary from state to state, and according to state law and hospital policy.

Therefore, it is the position of AST that the individual who has graduated from a CAAHEP-accredited program and attained the credential of CST, or appropriately credentialed surgical assistant, has the knowledge and experience to perform those tasks, as related to the intraoperative advancement and movement of the endoscope, as necessary, to contribute to quality surgical patient outcomes.