

**RULE 40**  
**ARKANSAS SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS****1. DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Surgical technologist" means an individual who performs the skills and techniques of surgical technology under the direction and supervision of a licensed practitioner other than in the course of practicing as a licensed healthcare professional; and
- B. "Surgical technology" means surgical patient care that includes without limitation:
  - (1) Preparing an operating room and a sterile field for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is assembled and functioning properly and safely;
  - (2) Preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment using sterile technique;
  - (3) Performing tasks in a sterile field, including:
    - (a) Maintaining asepsis and a sterile operating field;
    - (b) Passing supplies, equipment, or instruments according to the needs of the surgical team;
    - (c) Sponging or suctioning an operative site;
    - (d) Preparing and cutting suture material;
    - (e) Providing irrigation solutions to the supervising physician and irrigating an operative site;
    - (f) Providing drugs within the sterile field for administration by the supervising physician;
    - (g) Handling specimens;
    - (h) Holding retractors and other instruments;
    - (i) Applying electrocautery to clamp on blood vessels;
    - (j) Connecting drains to a suction apparatus;
    - (k) Applying dressing to closed wounds; and
    - (l) Performing counts of supplies such as sponges, needles, and instruments with the registered nurse circulator; and
  - (4) The practice of surgical technology is a separate and distinct healthcare profession that does not include the practice of surgical assisting as performed by physician assistants, surgical assistants, or first assistants.

**2. REGISTRATION:**

The Arkansas State Medical Board shall register as a surgical technologist an applicant who:

- A. Successfully completed a nationally accredited surgical technology program and holds a current credential as a certified surgical technologist from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting or its successor or a national organization approved by the Arkansas State Medical Board;
- B. Has successfully completed a surgical technologist training program during the person's service as a member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces; or
- C. Has been employed to practice as a surgical technologist at any time within the six (6) months before July 1, 2017, if the applicant registers with the Arkansas State Medical Board on or before ~~July 1, 2018~~ March 31, 2020.

**3. TITLE PROTECTION:**

A person shall not use or assume the title “registered surgical technologist” unless the person is registered with the Arkansas State Medical Board.

**4. RENEWAL:**

In order to maintain registration, each individual who holds a surgical technologist registration must renew the registration each year.

**5. FEES:**

The Board will charge an application fee of \$25.00 and an annual renewal fee of \$10.00 for surgical technologists registered with the Board.

**HISTORY.** Adopted August 3, 2017. Effective October 29, 2017.