

<b>Name of Policy: Surgical Assisting in the Operating Room</b>			
<b>Policy Number:</b> 3364-124-70			
<b>Approving Officer:</b> Chief Executive Officer			
<b>Responsible Agent:</b> Chief Nursing Officer			
<b>Scope:</b> The University of Toledo Medical Center Operating Room (OR)/Perioperative Services		<b>Effective date:</b> 12/2025	
		<b>Original effective date:</b> April 1, 2009	
Key words: Surgical Assisting, Operating Room, Qualified personnel, Training Program, Operative Procedures			
	New policy proposal		Minor/technical revision of existing policy
	Major revision of existing policy	X	Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

Only personnel qualified by license, certification, education, and training will assist on procedures in the operating room (OR). Students in approved training programs are allowed to participate and assist in operative procedures under the direct supervision of qualified personnel.

(B) Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that only qualified personnel and appropriately supervised students participate and assist during a surgical procedure.

(C) Definitions

Limited Role. This designation is meant to identify a restricted role regarding surgical assistance. This role does not allow for suturing of tissue, independent use of electrocautery, independent use of powered instruments, or independent cutting of tissue. It is intended to identify those clinical roles that do not routinely provide first assisting duties during procedures but can include duties such as those listed below.

- (1) Holding and use of tissue retractors.
- (2) Cutting of suture.
- (3) Holding laparoscopic cameras.

- (4) Other manipulations of tissue and assistance with surgical instrumentation under the direct observation and per surgeon discretion.

(D) Procedure

It is the responsibility of the OR operations supervisor or designee and the registered nurse (RN) circulator to ensure that all personnel assisting on surgical procedures are qualified and approved.

- (1) Qualified personnel.
  - (a) Faculty and attending surgical staff with appropriate surgical privileges.
  - (b) UTMC residents and interns.
  - (c) Outside/guest faculty or surgeon, as approved by the appropriate department chairperson and UTMC central verification office.
  - (d) UTMC employed registered nurse first assistants (RNFA), certified surgical assistants (CSA), nurse practitioners (NP), and physician assistants (PA) who are privileged to assist.
  - (e) UTMC employed OR RN (limited role\*).
  - (f) UTMC employed surgical technicians (limited role\*).
  - (g) Non-UTMC employed physician-extender who is employed by a credentialed UTMC attending surgeon and has undergone an appropriate credentialing process.
  - (h) Appropriately licensed and credentialed clinician that has permission in writing from a surgery department chairperson and approval of the UTMC central verification office.

(2) Students.

Student participation must occur under the direct supervision of one of the above qualified personnel. Students are defined as set forth below.

- (a) UTMC medical students.
- (b) UTMC nursing students (limited role\*).
- (c) UTMC physician assistant students.
- (d) UTMC approved surgical technician students (limited role\*).
- (e) UTMC approved registered nurse first assistants in training.
- (f) Other students who have an approved training agreement in place with UTMC and fit one of the above designations.

Any questions or concerns regarding specific individual roles and appropriate supervision should be directed to the OR operations supervisor.

<p><b>Approved by:</b></p> <p>/s/</p> <hr/> <p>Daniel Barbee, MBA, BSN, RN, FACHE Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>12/19/2025</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> <p>/s/</p> <hr/> <p>Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC Chief Nursing Officer</p> <p>12/18/2025</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> <p><i>Review/Revision Completed by: Operating Room Management</i></p>	<p><b>Policies Superseded by this Policy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>None</i></li></ul> <p>Initial effective date: April 1, 2009</p> <p>Review/Revision Date:</p> <p>August 2012 February 1, 2016 August 1, 2019 December 1, 2022 December 2025</p> <p>Next review date: 12/2028</p>
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