

# AORN Specialty Assemblies

## Take a leadership role in your SA

### SPECIALTY NEWS ASSEMBLIES

In August the election process to determine who will be members of Specialty Assembly (SA) Coordinating Councils for the coming year begins.

Members of each SA Coordinating Council are elected by the general SA membership to terms of two years. The Coordinating Council is composed of five standing positions: Chair, Past Chair, Communication Chair, Education Chair and Professional/Practice Issues Chair.

Coordinating Council members represent and maintain communication with their SA constituency, as well as set priorities for activities to be accomplished over the coming 12-month period. They're guided by the SA's specific goals and charges from AORN. Only members of an SA may serve on its Coordinating Council. Members interested in being included on the ballot need to submit by Oct. 19 a Willingness to Serve form, which includes the positions to be filled. The Willingness to Serve form is located online at [www.aorn.org/community/committees](http://www.aorn.org/community/committees).

Members with questions about the election process can contact Debbie Robichaud Stephen, AORN's member groups governance coordinator, phone (800) 755-2676, extn. 427, or e-mail [drobichaud@aorn.org](mailto:drobichaud@aorn.org). Members also can contact coordinating council members. See: <http://www.aorn.org/Community/SpecialtyAssemblies/SpecialtyAssemblyGroups/>.

**Medicare denial information for RNFAs**—While Medicare billing regulations do not permit RN First Assistants to submit claims to Medicare, even for the purpose of obtaining a denial, it is possible for RNFAs to obtain a letter from specific Medicare carriers that insurance plans should accept for purposes of recognizing their payment obligations.

For example, Noridian has a method for allowing non-practitioners to obtain a "letter of denial," without submitting a claim, for purposes of billing another insurance plan. See Noridian Medicare Part B News, Denial Letter Requests for Non-Covered services or Non-Covered Providers, available at <https://www.noridianmedicare.com/pmedb/news/bulletins/index.html>. This method should be advocated in all regions, even if a specific bulletin or

process has not been specifically identified by the local carrier, advises Cathy Sparkman, JD, director of AORN's Government Affairs department.

AORN recommends the following billing advice for RNFAs: Medicare does not pay for the first assisting services furnished by RNFAs. Medicare also does not permit RNFAs to enroll in Medicare. Enrollment in Medicare is a prerequisite for submitting a claim to Medicare, regardless of whether the claim is for the purpose of payment or denial. RNFAs should not submit claims to Medicare for any purpose. If a Medicare denial is necessary in order to

### Key election procedures

1. Elections will be by majority vote by the appointed deadline.
2. Terms of office will be for a period of 2 years, except that council members subsequently elected to the role of chair may serve for 4 years.
3. Coordinating Council members filling a partial term are eligible for re-election for a consecutive full term.
4. Members may run for re-election for a second consecutive term.
5. Terms of newly elected SA Chairs and other Coordinating Council members begin at the end of the annual AORN Congress during which they are elected and run for 2 years until the end of the annual AORN Congress.
6. There will be a 1- or 2-member turnover of Coordinating Council members annually.

### Eligibility criteria

Coordinating Council Member:

1. Must be a current member in good standing of the SA.
2. Must have Internet/e-mail access.

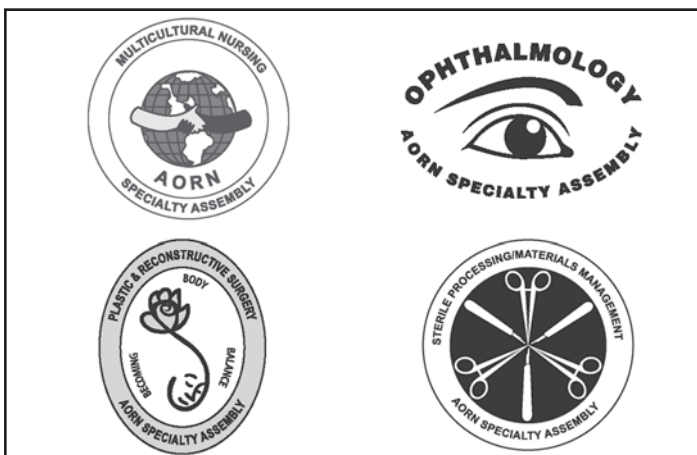
Chair

Must have served as an active member of the SA Coordinating Council for a period of 1 year.

submit for payment a claim to the supplemental or other insurance company, RNFA's should submit a letter to the local Medicare carrier requesting a "letter of denial" for the RNFA's services. Further information will be provided in AORN's new edition of the RNFA Guide to Practice, which will be available to members this fall.

**Four new SA logo pins now available**—In July, four new logo pins were introduced for Specialty Assemblies without graphic identifiers. Each SA has its unique graphic identifier. These identifiers are developed by AORN production staff and included on display pins that are made available to SA members.

To learn more about SA logo pins, contact AORN Member Services at 800-755-2676, extn. 275.



The four AORN SA logo pins newly available are for Multicultural SA (top, left), Ophthalmology SA (top, right), Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery SA (bottom, left) and Materials Management SA (bottom, right).



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### ACCREDITATION

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