# 8 States With RN Supervision Language as it Relates to Surgical Techs Working in ASCs

_Last Updated 12/14/2009_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CITATION</th>
<th>STATUTORY LANGUAGE</th>
<th>RN SUPERVISION of ST LANGUAGE</th>
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| Alabama    | ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH | 420-5-2-.02. Administration  
(e) Other required Nursing Service Personnel.  
1. Operating Room  
(i) Personnel in the operating room must include at least one (1) registered professional nurse to serve as the circulating nurse in each operating room. Additional personnel may include another RN, LPN or surgical technician to scrub. | Under supervision of RN  
RN Circulator Supervision  
Scrub role |
"Direct supervision" means supervision by an operating physician, licensed podiatrist, or licensed dentist who is physically present and who personally directs delegated acts and remains available to personally respond to an emergency until the patient is released from the operating room. A registered professional nurse may also provide direct supervision within the scope of his or her license. A registered surgical assistant or registered surgical technologist shall perform duties as assigned.  
“Registered surgical technologist” means a person who (i) is not a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, (ii) is certified by the Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologist, (iii) performs duties under direct supervision, (iv) provides services only in a licensed hospital, ambulatory treatment center, or office of a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, and (v) is registered under this Act.  
1485.40 Supervision  
a) As stated in Section 10 of the Act, all registered surgical assistants and registered surgical technologists shall perform duties only under direct supervision.  
b) "Direct supervision" means supervision by an operating physician, licensed podiatrist, or licensed dentist who is physically present and who personally directs delegated acts and remains available to personally respond to an emergency until the patient is released from the operating room. A registered professional nurse may also provide direct supervision within the scope of his or her license. A registered surgical assistant or registered surgical technologist shall perform duties as assigned. | Under supervision of RN  
RN Supervision  
• Scrub role |
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<tr>
<th>Indiana</th>
<th>410 IAC 15-2.5-5 Patient care services</th>
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<td>Sec. 5. (a) All patient care services must meet the needs of the patient, within the scope of the service offered, in accordance with acceptable standards of practice. Patient care services must be under the direction of a qualified person or persons. Patient care services must require the following:</td>
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<td>(5) That an experienced registered nurse supervise all nursing personnel, including, but not limited to, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and surgical technologists, in surgical areas and recovery unit(s) as follows: (A) Licensed practical nurses and surgical technologists may serve as scrub personnel under the supervision of a qualified registered nurse. (B) Circulating duties in the operating room shall be performed by a qualified registered nurse. Licensed practical nurses and surgical technologists may assist in circulating duties under the supervision of a qualified registered nurse who is immediately available to respond to emergencies, in accordance with applicable state law and approved medical staff policies and procedures.</td>
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<td>Under supervision of RN</td>
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<td>RN supervision</td>
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<td>● Scrub role</td>
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<td>RN Circulator Supervision</td>
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<th>Nevada</th>
<th>3. A surgical technician or licensed practical nurse may be permitted to serve as a scrub technician only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse.</th>
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<td>RN supervision</td>
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### Oklahoma

**OKLAHOMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**  
**TITLE 310. OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CHAPTER 615. AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER REGULATIONS SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

310:615-1-1. *Purpose*
The purpose of this Chapter is to insure the quality of medical care in ambulatory surgical centers is the same as that required in hospitals licensed by the State of Oklahoma.

310:667-25-1. *Department of surgery*
The department of surgery shall have effective policies and procedures regarding surgical privileges, maintenance of the operating rooms, and evaluation of the surgical patient.

(4) The operating room log shall be complete and up to date and include the following information:

(F) Circulating nurse.

(11) Surgical technicians and licensed practical nurses may be permitted to serve as "scrub nurses" under the direct supervision of a registered nurse; they shall not be permitted to function as circulating nurses in the operating room.

### South Carolina

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATUTES**  
**TITLE 44. HEALTH ARTICLE 7. HOSPITALS, TUBERCULOSIS CAMPS, AND HEALTH SERVICES DISTRICTS ARTICLE 3. STATE CERTIFICATION OF NEED AND HEALTH FACILITY LICENSURE ACT**

Section 44-7-385. (A) As used in this section, an *operating room circulator* means a registered nurse trained, educated, or experienced in perioperative nursing who is responsible for coordinating the nursing care and safety needs of a patient in the operating room and who also meets the needs of the operating room team members during surgery.

(B) An *operating room circulator* in a health care facility must be a licensed registered nurse educated, trained, and experienced in perioperative nursing.

(C) A surgical technologist may not serve as the circulator in the operating room of a health care facility; however, a person who is employed to practice surgical technology in a health care facility may assist in the performance of circulating duties:

(1) consistent with the person's education, training, and experience; and

(2) as assigned and supervised by a registered nurse circulator who must be present in the operating room for the duration of the surgical procedure.

Under supervision of RN  
- Scrub role  

RN supervision  
- Scrub role  

RN Circulator Supervision  
- Circulator role
| Tennessee | RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION BUREAU OF MANPOWER AND FACILITIES; DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES CHAPTER 1200-8-10 STANDARDS FOR AMBULATORY SURGICAL TREATMENT CENTERS | 1200-8-10-.06 BASIC SERVICES  
(1) Surgical Services.  
(e) The operating rooms must be supervised by an experienced registered nurse or a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.  
(f) Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and surgical technologists (operating room technicians) may serve as "scrub nurses" under the supervision of a registered nurse.  
(g) Qualified registered nurses may perform circulating duties in the operating room. In accordance with applicable State laws and approved medical staff policies and procedures, LPNs and surgical technologists may assist in circulatory duties under the supervision of a qualified registered nurse who is immediately available to respond to emergencies. | Under supervision of RN  
RN supervision  
- Scrub role  
RN Circulator Supervision  
- Circulator role |
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| Texas | TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE  
TITLE 25. HEALTH SERVICES  
PART 1. DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES  
CHAPTER 135. AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS  
SUBCHAPTER A. OPERATING REQUIREMENTS FOR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS | § 135.15.  
(a) Nursing Services  
(1) There shall be an organized nursing service under the direction of a qualified registered nurse (RN) and staffed to assure that the nursing needs of all patients are met.  
(2) There shall be a written plan of administrative authority for all nursing services with responsibilities and duties of each category of nursing personnel delineated and a written job description for each category. The scope of nursing service shall include, but is not limited to, nursing care rendered to patients preoperatively, intraoperatively, and postoperatively.  
(C) Surgical technicians and licensed vocational nurses may be permitted to serve as the scrub nurse under the direct supervision of an RN; they shall not be permitted to function as circulating nurses in the operating rooms, except in ASCs where no general anesthesia is administered and when there is an adequate number of RNs immediately available for an emergency situation. Licensed vocational nurses and surgical technicians may assist in circulatory duties under the supervision of a qualified RN during general anesthesia cases. | Under direct supervision of RN  
RN supervision  
- Scrub role |