



**Adopted BOD April 2008  
Updated BOD January 2013**

**Position Statement Backtable and Mayo Stand Remaining Sterile  
until Patient is Transported from Operating Room**

Due to the dramatically rising costs of healthcare and decrease in insurance reimbursements, healthcare facilities must continually work at developing methods for improving efficiency and productivity. However, these methods must be developed and implemented, while still maintaining the safety and quality care of the surgical patient. A primary focus has been to improve the efficiency of operating room turnover time, especially with the recent emphasis on emergency preparedness. A routine practice in many health care facilities is to break down the sterile Mayo stand and backtable, and remove instruments and supplies from the operating room prior to the patient being transported out of the room in order to decrease turnover time. However, this practice is questionable in relation to providing quality patient care in those emergency instances, when an incision may need to be quickly reopened or an emergency tracheotomy needs to be performed.

Therefore, it is the position of AST that the CST in the first scrub role should not remove the sterile gown and gloves, and at the minimum, maintain the sterility of the Mayo stand, including retaining a few sterile instruments, such as a knife handle with knife blade loaded, hemostats, scissors, retractor(s), and needle holder until the patient has been transported out of the operating room.