

Oregon Surgical Technology Law

676.870 Definitions for ORS 676.870 to 676.890

- (1) "Health care facility" means a hospital or an ambulatory surgical center, as those terms are defined in ORS 442.015.
- (2) "Rural or medically underserved community" means a geographic area of this state that is 10 or more miles from the geographic center of a population center of 40,000 or more individuals.
- (3) "Surgical technology" means intraoperative surgical patient care that involves:
 - (a) Preparing an operating room for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely;
 - (b) Preparing an operating room and the sterile field for surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies, instruments and equipment using sterile techniques;
 - (c) Anticipating the needs of a surgical team based on knowledge of human anatomy and pathophysiology and how those fields relate to the surgical patient and the patient's surgical procedure; and
 - (d) Performing tasks as directed in an operating room, including:
 - (A) Passing instruments, equipment or supplies;
 - (B) Sponging or suctioning of an operative site;
 - (C) Preparing and cutting suture material;
 - (D) Transferring fluids or drugs;
 - (E) Handling specimens;
 - (F) Holding retractors and other equipment;
 - (G) Applying electrocautery to clamps on bleeders;
 - (H) Connecting drains to suction apparatus;
 - (I) Applying dressings to closed wounds; and
 - (J) Assisting in counting supplies and instruments, including sponges and needles.

2015 c.373, § 1, effective June 11, 2015.

Requirements for practice of surgical technology in health care facilities

676.875. (1) A health care facility may not allow a person to practice surgical technology at the health care facility unless the person provides the health care facility with documentation showing that the person:

- (a)
 - (A) Has completed an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority by rule (rule reads, "Completion of a surgical technology education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program ([CAAHEP](#)) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools ([ABHES](#))"); **and**
 - (B) Holds and maintains a:
 - (i) Surgical technologist certification issued by a nationally accredited certifying organization for surgical technologists approved by the authority by rule (rule reads, "and certification as a surgical technologist or certification as a subspecialty surgical assistant or surgical technologist issued by the: (A) National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting ([NBSTSA](#)); (B) National Center for Competency and Testing (NCCT); or (C) International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO)"); or
 - (ii) Subspecialty surgical assistant or surgical technologist certification, including but not limited to a certified ophthalmic surgical assisting credential issued by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology or its successor organization, that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies or its successor organization and approved by the authority by rule;

(b) Has completed and is certified by a registered **apprenticeship** program in surgical technology that:

- (A) Is approved under ORS 660.002 to 660.210;
- (B) Meets the requirements for, and requires participants to receive, certification by the National Center for Competency Testing or its successor organization;
- (C) Includes an educational component as determined sufficient by the authority;
- (D) Upon completion awards certification accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies or its successor organization; and
- (E) Is approved by the authority by rule;

(c)

- (A) Has completed a training program for surgical technologists in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard of the United States or in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; and

(B) Every two years has completed 16 hours of continuing education approved by the authority; or

(d)

- (A) Practiced surgical technology during at least two of the three years immediately preceding January 1, 2017:

- (i) In a health care facility in Oregon or in another state; or

- (ii) As an employee of an agency or institution of the federal government; and

- (B) Every two years has completed 16 hours of continuing education approved by the authority.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(a)(B) of this section, a health care facility may allow a person who does not hold a certification described in subsection (1)(a)(B) of this section to perform surgical technology at the health care facility for 12 months after the person completes an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the authority by rule.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(b) of this section, a health care facility may allow a person who does not hold a certification described in subsection (1)(b) of this section to perform surgical technology at the health care facility if the person:

- (a) Is an apprentice, as defined in ORS 660.010, actively enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program in surgical technology described in subsection (1)(b) of this section that requires the person to obtain on-the-job supervised training; and

- (b) Is at all times while performing surgical technology provided adequate direct supervision as required by the standards for the registered apprenticeship program in which the person is enrolled.

ORS 676.875 does not apply to a health care facility that allows a licensed health care practitioner to perform the duties of a surgical technologist if the practitioner is acting within the scope of practice of the practitioner's license.

676.885 Practice of surgical technology in health care facility in rural or medically underserved community.

(1) A health care facility in a rural or medically underserved community may allow a person to practice as a surgical technologist at the health care facility who does not meet the requirements of ORS 676.875 while the person is attending an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the Oregon Health Authority by rule.

(2) A person described in subsection (1) of this section is exempt from the requirements of ORS 676.875 for three years from the date on which the person began practicing as a surgical technologist at the health care facility.

676.890 Penalties; rules

The Oregon Health Authority shall adopt rules necessary to carry out ORS 676.870 to 676.890, including but not limited to penalties for violation of ORS 676.870 to 676.890 or rules adopted under ORS 676.870 to 676.890.