Occupations Code, Chapter 206. Surgical Assistants, Title 3. Health Professions, Subtitle C. Other Professions Performing Medical Procedures, Subchapter A. General Provisions

Sec. 206.001. DEFINITIONS:

…

(6) "Surgical assisting" means providing aid under direct supervision in exposure, hemostasis, and other intraoperative technical functions that assist a physician in performing a safe operation with optimal results for the patient, including the delegated authority to provide local infiltration or the topical application of a local anesthetic at the operation site. This term is synonymous with "first assisting."

Occupations Code, Chapter 206. Surgical Assistants, Title 3. Health Professions, Subtitle C. Other Professions Performing Medical Procedures, Subchapter F. Scope Of Practice

Sec. 206.251. SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

(a) The practice of a surgical assistant is limited to surgical assisting performed under the direct supervision of a physician who delegated the acts.

(b) The practice of a surgical assistant may be performed in any place authorized by a delegating licensed physician, including a clinic, hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or other institutional setting.

Occupations Code, Chapter 206. Surgical Assistants, Title 3. Health Professions, Subtitle C. Other Professions Performing Medical Procedures, Subchapter F. Scope Of Practice

Sec. 206.254. ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS AND STANDARDS.

A surgical assistant and the surgical assistant's delegating physician shall ensure that:

(1) the surgical assistant's scope of function is identified;

(2) the delegation of medical tasks is appropriate to the surgical assistant's level of competence;

(3) the relationship between the surgical assistant and the delegating physician and the access of the surgical assistant to the delegating physician are defined; and

(4) a process is established for evaluating the surgical assistant's performance.

Texas Medical Board: Board Rules Chapter 184, Surgical Assistants

§184.13. Physician Supervision.

(a) Supervision shall be continuous, and shall require that the delegating physician be physically present and immediately available in the operating room to personally respond to any emergency until the patient is released from the operating room and care has been transferred to another physician. Telecommunication is insufficient for supervision purposes.

(b) It is the obligation of each team of physician(s) and surgical assistant(s) to ensure that:

(1) the surgical assistant's scope of practice is identified;

(2) delegation of medical tasks is appropriate to the surgical assistant's level of competence;

(3) the relationship between the members of the team is defined;

(4) that the relationship of, and access to, the supervising physician is defined;
(5) a process for evaluation of the surgical assistant's performance is established; and
(6) the physician and surgical assistant comply with the provisions of Chapter 193 of this
title (relating to Standing Delegation Orders) when applicable.

Texas Medical Board: Board Rules Chapter 184, Surgical Assistants

To be authorized to supervise a surgical assistant, a physician must be currently licensed as a
physician in this state by the medical board. The license must be unrestricted and active.

Texas Medical Board: Board Rules
Chapter 193. Standing Delegation Orders

§193.1. Purpose.

(b) Likewise, nothing in this chapter shall be construed as to prohibit a physician from instructing
a technician, assistant, or nurse to perform delegated tasks so long as the physician retains
supervision and control of the technician, assistant, or employee.

Nothing in this chapter should be construed to relieve the supervising physician of the
professional or legal responsibility for the care and treatment of those persons with whom the
deleagting physician has established a physician-patient relationship. Nothing in this chapter
shall enlarge or extend the applicable statutory law relating to the practice of medicine, or other
rules and regulations previously promulgated by the board.