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Position Statement on Surgical Care of the Patient with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

The AST Board of Directors believes that the Association of Surgical Technologists, Inc, has a responsibility to provide guidance to the membership. The Board has, therefore, adopted the following statement concerning surgical care of the patient with acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The Association reaffirms the ongoing commitment of its members to render safe, high-quality, individualized care to all patients undergoing surgical intervention.

The Association recognizes that risk factors are involved in the care of any surgical patient. The risks to the health care provider may be known or unknown (eg, patients with human immune deficiency virus (HIV) infection or hepatitis B carriers). The *AST Standards of Practice* provide a basis for surgical technology and address patient care issues in the clinical setting.

AST reaffirms its support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for caring for patients who are HIV positive and for any other potentially infectious patient. The Association encourages health care institutions to develop policies and procedures that address infection control and safety for patients and staff.

Surgical technology takes place within a setting characterized by rapidly changing technological, economic, and cultural forces, all of which require continuous adaptation by professional practitioners. By adapting to these changes through ongoing education and the use of prudent safety measures, no patient's care will be compromised.