

**Position Statement Skin Approximation of the Surgical Wound
with Staples by the CST and CSFA**

Skin staples are the most frequently employed method of skin closure due to their many advantages, including reducing tissue reaction, decreasing operative and anesthesia time, and providing uniform tension along the surgical wound. The use and applications of the various stapling devices are included in the didactic studies of the surgical technology and surgical assistant student. Additionally, surgical technology students demonstrate knowledge of operation of the skin stapler in the lab/mock operating room setting and during clinical rotation. The surgical assistant student demonstrates knowledge of use of the forceps to evert the skin layer to facilitate the placement of the staples in the lab/mock operating room setting and during clinical rotation. Upon graduation, the surgical technologist and surgical assistant practitioner apply these skills on a daily basis.

Therefore, it is the position of AST that the individual, who has attained the credential of CST, has the knowledge and experience to perform the task of operating the skin stapler, for the purpose of wound approximation to contribute to quality surgical patient outcomes. Additionally, the individual, who has attained the credential of CSFA, has the knowledge and experience to facilitate the closure of the skin layer by proper handling of the tissue with forceps.