



Not All Surgical Teams Are EQUAL

When patient lives are at stake,
education and certification
are non-negotiable.

SAFE SURGERY TOGETHER POWERED BY EDUCATION, EXPERTISE, AND TEAMWORK

The workforce solution already exists - and always has. The Association of Surgical Technologists endorses accredited education and national certification to ensure the highest quality of surgical care.

	(OTJ/NON-CERTIFIED) TECHNICIAN	CERTIFIED SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST (CST®)
EDUCATION	No formal education, online only or OTJ	Minimum accredited 2-year degree
CERTIFICATION	None, limited, or not nationally recognized	Nationally recognized NBSTSA CST®
COMPETENCY	Variable, no standard	Validated exam & ongoing CE
PATIENT SAFETY	Inconsistent, limited response, higher risk	Expert in asepsis, the sterile field & critical response
WORKFORCE STABILITY	Temporary "fix"	Long-term, career committed

KEY QUESTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE LEADERS

Educational Standards: Why lower the bar when proven standards already exist?

Workforce Sustainability: Are we solving a shortage long-term - or just applying unsustainable patches?

Ethical Responsibility: Unqualified or undertrained staff in surgical roles increase the risk of preventable errors—**endangering patients and those whose licenses oversee them.** How do we ethically or legally defend that?

Strategic Alignment: Why shift surgical duties to already short-staffed, overextended personnel or non-OR professionals?

Financial Impact: What are the real risks and costs of infections, errors, and turnover?

Protect quality. Protect safety. Protect patients.



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resources