



**Adopted BOD October 2013**

**Position Statement on Surgical Technologist as Subject  
Matter Expert on Application of Sterile Technique**

Graduates of accredited surgical technology programs completed a comprehensive education in which they received in-depth knowledge related to the operating room including completion of a surgical rotation. Throughout the educational experience, the surgical technology student learns in detail the principles of asepsis and application of sterile technique during surgical procedures, and continues to apply as a practitioner. However, there are other departments within health care facilities performing procedures that require applying sterile technique including cardiac catheterization procedures in the Cardiac Catheter Laboratory, invasive diagnostic imaging procedures in the Diagnostic Imaging Department, procedures performed in the Emergency Department, and endoscopic procedures in the Endoscopy Unit to name a few. Health care providers involved in invasive procedures that may not have received as in-depth training on sterile technique are recommended to draw upon the expertise of the surgical technologist to share their knowledge and skills in order to avoid the patient acquiring an infection.

Therefore, it is the position of AST that surgical technologists are subject matter experts (SME) in the principles of asepsis and application of sterile technique. As SMEs, the surgical technologist can provide recommendations to various other health care providers in regard to properly applying sterile technique during invasive procedures.