

DC Surgical Assistant

8013 SCOPE OF PRACTICE

8013.1 A surgical assistant shall, in accordance with this chapter and the Act, have the authority to perform the following tasks:

- (a) Provide local infiltration or the topical application of a local anesthetic and hemostatic agents at the operative site;
- (b) Incise tissues;
- (c) Ligate and approximate tissues with sutures and clamps;
- (d) Apply tourniquets, casts, immobilizers, and surgical dressings;
- (e) Check the placement and operation of equipment;
- (f) Assist in moving and positioning the patient;
- (g) Assist the surgeon in draping the patient;
- (h) Prepare a patient by cleaning, shaving, and sterilizing the incision area;
- (i) Retract tissue and expose the operating field area during operative procedures;
- (j) Place suture ligatures and clamp, tie, and clip blood vessels to control bleeding during surgical entry;
- (k) Use cautery for hemostasis under direct supervision;
- (l) Assist in closure of skin and subcutaneous tissue;
- (m) Assist in the cleanup of the surgical suite; and
- (n) Check and restock the surgical suite.

8013.2 A surgical assistant shall not perform the following tasks;

- (a) Perform any surgical procedure independently;
- (b) Prescribe any medications or controlled substances; or
- (c) Write any progress notes or orders on hospitalized patients, except operative notes.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 54 DCR 9549 (October 5, 2007).