



The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Prince Edward Island

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Standard for Physicians doing Surgical Assisting

Whereas some surgical procedures require a second physician acting as an assistant to the surgeon for the well being of the patient, and

whereas some physicians assist with surgery on their own patients to facilitate future care of that patient and others assist in the operating room to provide a service outside of their usual practice,

it has become important to establish a practice standard to guide those physicians regarding their professional requirements. Physicians doing surgical assisting shall:

- 1) have sufficient training in surgical skills and protocols to be of assistance to the surgeon and have good eye – hand coordination,
- 2) fulfill the credentialing requirements of the Department/Hospital,
- 3) be responsible to the operating surgeon,
- 4) know their antibody status with regard to blood borne pathogens, and be compliant with the College standard,
- 5) be approved by the Head of Surgery,
- 6) not engage in any other medical work if their licence is restricted to “surgical assisting”,
- 7) have no obligation to provide patient care except assisting the operating surgeon in the Operating Room (OR) if their licence is restricted to “surgical assisting”, and
- 8) have a minimum period of 6 month supervision, with satisfactory monthly reports submitted to the College by the Head of Surgery and Head of the OR Committee if their licence is restricted to “surgical assisting”.