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NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 333
OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

FILED

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ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Education requirements for a surgical technologist

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 09/25/2023 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

A public rulemaking hearing may be requested in writing by 10 or more people, or by a group with 10 or more members, within 21 days following the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Oregon Bulletin or 28 days from the date the Notice was sent to people on the agency mailing list, whichever is later. If sufficient hearing requests are received, the notice of the date and time of the rulemaking hearing must be published in the Oregon Bulletin at least 14 days before the hearing.

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

The Oregon Health Authority (Authority), Public Health Division, Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement section is proposing to permanently amend Oregon Administrative Rules in chapter 333, divisions 76 and 520 relating to education requirements for an individual to practice surgical technology in an ambulatory surgery center or hospital. These amendments are in response to passage of HB 3596 (OL 2023, ch. 447) which allows an apprentice to complete a registered apprenticeship program and removes requirement that the apprentice also complete an accredited surgical technology training program through a community college.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

- ORS chapter 441: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors441.html
- ORS chapter 676: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors676.html
- HB 3596 (2023): <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3596/Enrolled>
- Association of Surgical Technologist, Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology, Seventh Edition: https://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Educators/AST_Core_Curriculum_7ed.pdf

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

According to the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), Apprenticeship and Training Division (ATD) Guide to Implementing the Oregon Plan for Equal Employment Opportunity in Registered Apprenticeship Programs, registered apprenticeship programs are proven, direct career pathways to the middle class for many Americans. Apprenticeships help employers build a workforce tailored to meet their needs and create career opportunities that build communities across the country. According to this guide, the United States Department of Labor has required apprenticeship programs to engage in affirmative action efforts that ensure equal opportunity in apprenticeships. Additionally, the

report notes that there are great disparities for certain communities when it comes to their ability to access registered apprenticeships and complete program requirements. Female identifying individuals continue to represent less than 10% of registered apprentices, despite composing one-half of the workforce. Black, American Indian, Indigenous, and People of Color are also under-represented in many industries compared to their representation in the workforce.

Apprenticeship programs offer an opportunity to reduce barriers because they incorporate paid, on-the-job training with an educational component. Additionally, BOLI ATD with support of the Oregon Plan, requires apprenticeship programs to establish an on-going plan for utilization of apprentices, so that apprentices will reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. Each program's plan is individualized to support efforts and provide outreach requirements and recommendations to successfully reach goals. In developing an apprenticeship program, sponsors are required to implement measures to ensure that outreach and recruitment efforts for apprentices extends to all persons without regard to race, sex, ethnicity, or disability and must develop and update recruitment sources that will generate referrals for all demographic groups.

Oregon continues to face severe and growing healthcare workforce shortages including hiring and retaining qualified surgical technologists. During the 2022 and 2023 legislative sessions, many hospitals and ASCs provided testimony sharing their struggles with recruitment and vacancies which often lead to delaying surgeries or procedures which negatively impacts patient health and provision of care. Communities in rural Oregon are especially impacted due to limited educational programs areas available in those geographic regions. There are currently three (3) accredited surgical technology education programs in Oregon – Mt. Hood Community College located in Gresham; Linn-Benton Community College located in Albany; and Concorde Career College located in Portland.

The apprenticeship pathway allows persons to build new skills through classroom instruction and paid on-the-job training. Apprenticeships with their federal and state requirements to ensure equitable access and participation, can be bolstered to increase employment opportunities for historically marginalized communities. This amendment will reduce potential barriers for interested individuals by eliminating the additional 2-year education requirement.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The proposed amendment eliminates the requirement that an apprentice must also complete an accredited two-year education program thus saving time and money for those individuals who may enroll in a surgical technologist apprenticeship program. Apprenticeship programs provide an alternative educational pathway to help improve staffing in hospitals and ASCs, including in rural Oregon, which has been most affected by recruitment struggles and prolonged vacancies. Increasing staffing will have a positive economic impact on these facilities as well as communities, but most importantly it may reduce the potential negative impacts of staffing shortages on patients and their health.

The Authority does not collect data on the number of surgical technologists that are currently certified by either the NBSTSA or the NCCT who are employed by hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers in Oregon. Data obtained from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) specifies that there are 761 certified surgical technologists (CSTs) as of June 30, 2023, living in Oregon. The NBSTSA does not collect data on whether the CST is currently employed in a facility where their certification is required. Data obtained from the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT) specifies that there are 38 certified surgical technologists (TS-Cs) as of July 28, 2023, living in Oregon. The NCCT does not collect data on whether the TS-C is currently employed in a facility where their certification is required. Given the data provided and the interest that rural hospitals and ASCs have shown in an apprenticeship education pathway, it is assumed that persons will likely register for an apprenticeship, however, it is not possible to project how many persons would take advantage of this option.

There are currently 97 licensed ASCs and 58 licensed hospitals that may choose to operate a surgical technologist apprenticeship program in accordance with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries rules and regulations. Forming and operating an apprenticeship program is voluntary and not required by these rules. There are administrative costs and expenses associated with forming and operating an apprenticeship program that the Authority is unable to quantify. Costs include but are not limited to formation of the local joint committee that is responsible for development of education and training standards, development of policies and procedures, and entering into agreements with an apprentice; education and training material; staff time to participate in required meetings and evaluating program; etc.

Currently, there are no registered surgical technologist apprenticeship programs in Oregon.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

(1) The Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division is not anticipating any increased costs as it is already responsible for conducting complaint investigations of ambulatory surgery centers and hospitals. There are no anticipated increased costs to local government or the public. The proposed rule change aligns with passage of HB 3596 (2023) and will reduce costs for individuals interested in completing an apprenticeship by eliminating the requirement that the individual must also complete an accredited program through a community college.

(2)(a) The Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement section does not collect data on the number of staff each agency employs and therefore cannot estimate with accuracy how many agencies may be small businesses. It is assumed that there are ambulatory surgery centers that employ 50 or fewer persons and thus would be impacted by these rules if they choose to create an apprenticeship program.

(b) It is not anticipated that these rules will have any increased impact on reporting, record keeping or other administrative activity requirements that is not already required.

(c) No additional equipment, supplies, labor or increased administration is anticipated to comply with these rules.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

No small businesses were involved in the proposed amendments as the amendments align with the provisions in HB 3596 (2023). No additional changes were made beyond what was required in the law.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Changes to the rules are proposed to align with the provisions in HB 3596 (2023) only.

RULES PROPOSED:

333-076-0137, 333-520-0050

AMEND: 333-076-0137

RULE SUMMARY: Amend OAR 333-076-0137 – Removes requirement that a registered apprentice must also complete a surgical technology accredited education program approved by CAAHEP or ABHES and updates rule references.

CHANGES TO RULE:

(1) For purposes of this rule:¶¶

(a) "Circulating nurse" means a registered nurse who is responsible for coordinating the nursing care and safety needs of the patient in the operating room and who also meets the needs of the operating room team members during surgery.¶¶

(b) "Rural or medically underserved community" means a geographic area of Oregon that is 10 or more miles from the geographic center of a population center of 40,000 or more individuals.¶¶

(c) "Surgical technology" means intraoperative surgical patient care that involves:¶¶

(A) Preparing an operating room for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely;¶¶

(B) Preparing an operating room and the sterile field for surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies, instruments and equipment using sterile techniques;¶¶

(C) Anticipating the needs of a surgical team based on knowledge of human anatomy and pathophysiology and how those fields relate to the surgical patient and the patient's surgical procedure; and¶¶

(D) Performing tasks as directed in an operating room, including:¶¶

(i) Passing instruments, equipment or supplies;¶¶

(ii) Sponging or suctioning of an operative site;¶¶

(iii) Preparing and cutting suture material;¶¶

(iv) Transferring fluids or drugs;¶¶

(v) Handling specimens;¶¶

(vi) Holding retractors and other equipment;¶¶

(vii) Applying electrocautery to clamps on bleeders;¶¶

(viii) Connecting drains to suction apparatus;¶¶

(ix) Applying dressings to closed wounds; and¶¶

(x) Assisting in counting supplies and instruments, including sponges and needles.¶¶

(2) An ASC, regardless of classification, shall comply with this rule.¶¶

(3) An ASC shall have operating rooms that conform to the applicable requirements in OAR 333-076-0185.¶¶

(4) An ASC's operating rooms must be supervised by an experienced registered nurse or physician.¶¶

(5) The duties of a circulating nurse performed in an operating room of an ASC shall be performed by a registered nurse licensed under ORS chapter 678. In all cases requiring general anesthesia, a circulating nurse shall be assigned to, and present in, an operating room for the duration of the surgical procedure unless it becomes necessary for the circulating nurse to leave the operating room as part of the surgical procedure. While assigned to a surgical procedure, a circulating nurse may not be assigned to any other patient or procedure.¶¶

(6) Nothing in section (5) precludes a circulating nurse from being relieved during a surgical procedure by another circulating nurse assigned to continue the surgical procedure.¶¶

(7) An ASC governing body may only permit individuals to practice surgical technology if they have satisfied the following requirements:¶¶

(a) Completion of a training program for surgical technologists in a branch of the armed forces of the United States or in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corp and completion of 16 hours of continuing education as described in section (154) of this rule every two years; ~~or~~¶¶

(b) Completion of a surgical technology education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program (CAAHEP) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and certification as a surgical technologist or certification as a subspecialty surgical assistant or surgical technologist issued by the:¶¶

(A) National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA);¶¶

(B) National Center for Competency and Testing (NCCT); or¶¶

(C) International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO); ~~or~~¶¶

(c) Practice of surgical technology at least two years between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2017 in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center or as an employee of a federal government agency or institution and completion of 16 hours of continuing education as described in section (154) of this rule every two years.¶¶

~~(8) Notwithstanding section (7) of this rule, an ASC may allow an individual to practice surgical technology at the ASC if the person:¶¶~~

~~(a) Provides documentation showing that the person has completed an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by CAAHEP or ABHES; and¶¶~~

~~(b) Has completed; or¶¶~~

~~(d) Completion of and is certified by a registered surgical technology apprenticeship program that:¶¶~~

~~(A) Is approved under ORS 660.002 to 660.210;¶¶~~

- (B) Meets the requirements for, and requires participants to receive, certification by the National Center for Competency Testing or its successor organization;¶
- (C) Upon completion awards certification accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies or its successor organization; and¶
- (D) Is approved by the ~~Authority~~Oregon Health Authority (Authority) in section ~~(98)~~(98) of this rule.¶
- ~~(98)~~ Authority approval of a registered apprenticeship program:¶
- (a) For approving under this rule, the Authority shall review registered surgical technology apprenticeship programs that have been approved under ORS 660.002 to 660.210 and listed on the Bureau of Labor and Industries' (BOLI) website. The Authority shall review the occupational standards submitted to BOLI and available at <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/apprenticeship/Pages/apprenticeship-opportunities.aspx>.¶
- (b) In reviewing the apprenticeship program, the Authority shall:¶
- (A) Only approve a registered apprenticeship program that satisfies the requirements in paragraphs ~~(87)~~(87)(~~bd~~)(A) through (C) of this rule.¶
- (B) Consider whether the program's occupational standards submitted to BOLI implements satisfactory education and training curriculum and requirements to protect health and safety of apprentices and patients, including but not limited to:¶
- (i) Whether the curriculum meets or exceeds the core curriculum standards established by the Association of Surgical Technologists in its Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology, Seventh Edition available at www.ast.org/educators/core-curriculum.¶
- (ii) Whether the program requires that the apprentice be supervised when performing surgical technology duties by a surgical technologist who:¶
- (I) Is certified by one of the certifying organizations specified in paragraphs (7)(b)(A) through (C) of this rule;¶
- (II) Is assigned to, and present in, the operating room or procedure room for the duration of the surgical procedure unless it becomes necessary for the supervising surgical technologist to leave the room as part of the surgical procedure;¶
- (III) While acting in a supervisory role, is not assigned to any other patient or procedure; and¶
- (IV) Personally directs delegated tasks and is available to personally respond to any emergency until the patient is removed from the operating room or procedure room.¶
- ~~(109)~~ Prior to permitting any individual to practice surgical technology at the ASC, the ASC governing body must ensure that the individual's qualifications to practice surgical technology as required by this rule are documented in the individual's personnel file.¶
- ~~(110)~~ Notwithstanding subsection (7)(b), an ASC may allow a person who is not certified by the NBSTSA, NCCT, or JCAHPO to practice surgical technology at the ASC for 12 months after the person completes an educational program accredited by the CAAHEP or ABHES.¶
- ~~(121)~~ Notwithstanding subsection ~~subsection~~paragraph (7)(~~bd~~)(B) of this rule, an ASC may allow an apprentice who does not hold a certification described in ~~subsection~~paragraph (7)(~~bd~~)(B) of this rule to practice surgical technology at the ASC if it is a requirement of the surgical technologist apprenticeship program that the apprentice obtain training while on-the-job and the apprentice is at all times while performing surgical technology provided adequate direct supervision as required by the standards for the registered apprenticeship program in which the person is enrolled.¶
- ~~(132)~~ A person not meeting the requirements specified in subsection (7)(b) of this rule may work at an ASC in a rural or medically underserved community for three years from the date that the person began practicing at the ASC as long as the person is actively enrolled in a surgical technology educational program accredited by the CAAHEP or ABHES.¶
- ~~(143)~~ These rules do not prohibit a licensed practitioner from performing surgical technology if the practitioner is acting within the scope of the practitioner's license and an ASC allows the practitioner to perform such duties.¶
- ~~(154)~~(a) The continuing education requirements described in subsections (7)(a) and (7)(c) shall:¶
- (A) Consist of 16 hours every two years;¶
- (B) Be tracked by the surgical technologist and is subject to audit by the ASC in which the person is practicing; and¶
- (C) Be relevant to the medical-surgical practice of surgical technology.¶
- (b) Continuing education may include but is not limited to:¶
- (A) Continuing education credits approved by the Association for Surgical Technologist;¶
- (B) Healthcare sponsored conferences, forums, seminars, symposiums or workshops;¶
- (C) Online distance learning courses;¶
- (D) Live lectures at national conferences; or¶
- (E) College courses.¶
- ~~(165)~~ An ASC shall conduct a random audit of a representative sample of the surgical technologists employed by the ASC every two years to verify compliance with educational requirements.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 441.025, ORS 676.890

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 441.025, 676.870 - 676.890, 678.362

AMEND: 333-520-0050

RULE SUMMARY: Amend OAR 333-520-0050 – Removes requirement that a registered apprentice must also complete a surgical technology accredited education program approved by CAAHEP or ABHES and updates rule references.

CHANGES TO RULE:

333-520-0050

Surgery Services ¶

(1) For purposes of this rule:¶

(a) "Circulating nurse" means a registered nurse who is responsible for coordinating the nursing care and safety needs of the patient in the operating room and who also meets the needs of the operating room team members during surgery.¶

(b) "Rural or medically underserved community" means a geographic area of Oregon that is 10 or more miles from the geographic center of a population center of 40,000 or more individuals.¶

(c) "Surgical technology" means intraoperative surgical patient care that involves:¶

(A) Preparing an operating room for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely;¶

(B) Preparing an operating room and the sterile field for surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies, instruments and equipment using sterile techniques;¶

(C) Anticipating the needs of a surgical team based on knowledge of human anatomy and pathophysiology and how those fields relate to the surgical patient and the patient's surgical procedure; and¶

(D) Performing tasks as directed in an operating room, including:¶

(i) Passing instruments, equipment or supplies;¶

(ii) Sponging or suctioning of an operative site;¶

(iii) Preparing and cutting suture material;¶

(iv) Transferring fluids or drugs;¶

(v) Handling specimens;¶

(vi) Holding retractors and other equipment;¶

(vii) Applying electrocautery to clamps on bleeders;¶

(viii) Connecting drains to suction apparatus;¶

(ix) Applying dressings to closed wounds; and¶

(x) Assisting in counting supplies and instruments, including sponges and needles.¶

(2) General hospitals are required to comply with this rule. A low occupancy acute care or mental or psychiatric hospital shall comply with this rule if it offers surgery services.¶

(3) A hospital that provides surgical services shall have operating rooms that conform to the applicable requirements in OAR chapter 333, division 535.¶

(4) A hospital's operating rooms must be supervised by an experienced registered nurse or doctor of medicine or osteopathy.¶

(5) The duties of a circulating nurse performed in an operating room of a hospital shall be performed by a registered nurse licensed under ORS 678.010 through 678.410. In all cases requiring anesthesia or conscious sedation, a circulating nurse shall be assigned to, and present in, an operating room for the duration of the surgical procedure unless it becomes necessary for the circulating nurse to leave the operating room as part of the surgical procedure. While assigned to a surgical procedure, a circulating nurse may not be assigned to any other patient or procedure.¶

(6) Nothing in section (5) precludes a circulating nurse from being relieved during a surgical procedure by another circulating nurse assigned to continue the surgical procedure.¶

(7) A hospital's governing body may only permit individuals to practice surgical technology if they have satisfied the following requirements:¶

(a) Completion of a training program for surgical technologists in a branch of the armed forces of the United States or in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corp and completion of 16 hours of continuing education as described in section (154) of this rule every two years; ~~or~~¶

(b) Completion of a surgical technology education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program (CAAHEP) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and certification as a surgical technologist or certification as a subspecialty surgical assistant or surgical technologist issued by the:¶

(A) National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA);¶

(B) National Center for Competency and Testing (NCCT); or¶

(C) International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO); ~~or~~¶

(c) Practice of surgical technology at least two years between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2017 in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center or as an employee of a federal government agency or institution and completion of 16 hours of continuing education as described in section (154) of this rule every two years.¶

~~(8) Notwithstanding section (7) of this rule, a hospital may allow an individual to practice surgical technology at the hospital if the person: or¶~~

~~(ad) Provides documentation showing that the person has completed an educational program for surgical technologists accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by CAAHEP or ABHES; and¶~~

~~(b) Has completed Completion of and is certified by a registered surgical technology apprenticeship program that:¶~~

~~(A) Is approved under ORS 660.002 to 660.210;¶~~

~~(B) Meets the requirements for, and requires participants to receive, certification by the National Center for Competency Testing or its successor organization;¶~~

~~(C) Upon completion awards certification accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies or its successor organization; and¶~~

~~(D) Is approved by the Authority Oregon Health Authority (Authority) in section (98) of this rule.¶~~

~~(98) Authority approval of a registered apprenticeship program:¶~~

~~(a) For approving under this rule, the Authority shall review registered surgical technology apprenticeship programs that have been approved under ORS 660.002 to 660.210 and listed on the Bureau of Labor and Industries' (BOLI) website. The Authority shall review the occupational standards submitted to BOLI and available at <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/apprenticeship/Pages/apprenticeship-opportunities.aspx>.¶~~

~~(b) In reviewing the apprenticeship program, the Authority shall:¶~~

~~(A) Only approve a registered apprenticeship program that satisfies the requirements in paragraphs (87)(bd)(A) through (C) of this rule.¶~~

~~(B) Consider whether the program's occupational standards submitted to BOLI implements satisfactory education and training curriculum and requirements to protect health and safety of apprentices and patients, including but not limited to:¶~~

~~(i) Whether the curriculum meets or exceeds the core curriculum standards established by the Association of Surgical Technologists in its Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology, Seventh Edition available at www.ast.org/educators/core-curriculum.¶~~

~~(ii) Whether the program requires that the apprentice be supervised when performing surgical technology duties by a surgical technologist who:¶~~

~~(I) Is certified by one of the certifying organizations specified in paragraphs (7)(b)(A) through (C) of the rule;¶~~

~~(II) Is assigned to, and present in, the operating room or procedure room for the duration of the surgical procedure unless it becomes necessary for the supervising surgical technologist to leave the room as part of the surgical procedure;¶~~

~~(III) While acting in a supervisory role, is not assigned to any other patient or procedure; and¶~~

~~(IV) Personally directs delegated tasks and is available to personally respond to any emergency until the patient is removed from the operating room or procedure room.¶~~

~~(109) Prior to permitting any individual to practice surgical technology at the hospital, the hospital governing body must ensure that the individual's qualifications to practice surgical technology as required by this rule are documented in the individual's personnel file.¶~~

~~(110) Notwithstanding subsection (7)(b) of this rule, a hospital may allow a person who is not certified by the NBSTSA, NCCT, or JCAHPO to practice surgical technology at the hospital for 12 months after the person completes an educational program accredited by the CAAHEP or ABHES.¶~~

~~(121) Notwithstanding subsection paragraph (7)(bd)(B) of this rule, a hospital may allow an apprentice who does not hold a certification described in subsection paragraph (7)(bd)(B) of this rule to practice surgical technology at the hospital if it is a requirement of the surgical technologist apprenticeship program that the apprentice obtain training while on-the-job and the apprentice is at all times while performing surgical technology provided adequate direct supervision as required by the standards for the registered apprenticeship program in which the person is enrolled.¶~~

~~(132) A person not meeting the requirements specified in subsection (7)(b) of this rule may work at a hospital located in a rural or medically underserved community for three years from the date that the person began practicing at the hospital as long as the person is actively enrolled in a surgical technology educational program accredited by the CAAHEP or ABHES.¶~~

~~(143) These rules do not prohibit a licensed practitioner from performing surgical technology if the practitioner is acting within the scope of the practitioner's license and a hospital allows the practitioner to perform such duties.¶~~

~~(154)(a) The continuing education requirements described in subsections (7)(a) and (7)(c) shall:¶~~

~~(A) Consist of 16 hours every two years;¶~~

~~(B) Be tracked by the surgical technologist and is subject to audit by the hospital in which the person is practicing;~~

and¶¶

(C) Be relevant to the medical-surgical practice of surgical technology.¶¶

(b) Continuing education may include but is not limited to:¶¶

(A) Continuing education credits approved by the Association for Surgical Technologist;¶¶

(B) Healthcare sponsored conferences, forums, seminars, symposiums or workshops;¶¶

(C) Online distance learning courses;¶¶

(D) Live lectures at national conferences; or¶¶

(E) College courses.¶¶

(165) A hospital shall conduct a random audit of a representative sample of the surgical technologists employed by the hospital every two years to verify compliance with educational requirements.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 441.025, ORS 676.890

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 441.025, 676.870 - 676.890, 678.362