Changes to **ABN Administrative Code 610-X-7.04**

“Registered Nurse As Surgical First Assistant (RNFA)”

The Alabama Board of Nursing has proposed minor changes to ABN Administrative Code Chapter 610-X-7, to ensure that Alabama rules governing practice as an RNFA are consistent with scope and standards of current practice.

**ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**CHAPTER 610-X-7**

**STANDARDS OF NURSING PRACTICE; SPECIFIC SETTINGS**

610-X-7.04 **Registered Nurse As Surgical First Assistant (RNFA).**

(1) The registered nurse may function as a surgical first assistant according to standardized procedures, as defined in Rule 610-X-6.12. The RNFA has the duty to verify that standardized procedures are in effect before performing the functions of a surgical first assistant.

(2) Performing intra-operative functions as a RNFA is limited to the direct supervision of the attending surgeon physically present in the surgical suite where the case is being performed.

(3) When directed by the attending surgeon, the RNFA intra-operative functions include, but are not limited to:

(a) Positioning the patient, preparing and draping the surgical site.

(b) Providing exposure, retraction, and hemostasis.

(c) Use and handling of surgical instrumentation.

(d) Tissue handling, dissection, suturing, and stapling.

(e) Making the skin nick or stab wound for laparoscopic surgery or drains, excluding placement of **primary trocar for laparoscopic and robotic access.** **Secondary placement of trocars for laparoscopic and robotic surgery if the RNFA is deemed competent to perform by the attending surgeon who is within proximity of the sterile field.**
(f) Securing drains.

(g) Closing of wounds external to the fascia.

(h) Harvesting extremity veins and closure of the resulting wounds.

(4) Functions for the RNFA that are not listed in these rules shall be defined in standardized procedures, which require Board approval prior to implementation for all practice settings.

(5) Standardized procedures for the RNFA shall include a statement of clinical privileges for additional technical functions that are permitted in a hospital.

(6) The RNFA shall not function as a scrub nurse concurrently with responsibility as a surgical first assistant.

(7) Practice as a registered nurse first assistant does not include the functions and privileges reserved for advanced practice nurses elsewhere in these rules.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing