



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Lt. Governor

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Commissioner

To: General Hospitals, Special Hospitals Licensed for Surgery, Ambulatory Surgery Centers

From: John A. Calabria, Director
Office of Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure

Date: August 2012

Re: Surgical Technologists

The Department of Health (Department) is issuing this memorandum for two purposes:

1. To advise licensed health care facilities that P.L. 2011, C. 148, (N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12.62 et seq.) which establishes standards for employment as a "surgical technologist" took effect on December 20, 2011; and
2. N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12.63 provides that an individual may practice surgical technology if the individual has "successfully completed a nationally or regionally accredited education program for surgical technologists."

The Department received multiple inquiries as to what is a "nationally or regionally accredited education program for surgical technologists." Citing to the U.S. Department of Education:

"[a]ccrediting agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met. Institutions and/or programs that request an agency's evaluation and that meet an agency's criteria are then "accredited" by that agency." See <http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>.

The U.S. Secretary of Education is required by law to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies that the Secretary determines to be reliable authorities as to the quality of education or training provided by the institutions of higher education and the higher education programs they accredit.

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Information on Department of Education accreditation is available at: <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>. Information concerning the degree and certificate offerings approved for a specific institution in New Jersey is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/ProgramInventory/index.html>

If a surgical technologist program is listed as accredited on the U.S. Department of Education website noted above, then it is compliant with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12.63.

Information pertaining to nationally accredited programs is available from the above referenced sites.

Please feel free to contact Eugene Brenycz, Regulatory Officer, and a member of my staff at (609) 292-5960 with any questions regarding this issue.