

# VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

## GUIDANCE DOCUMENT # 90-1

### TITLE: RN/LPN as First Assistants In Surgery

#### Registered Nurses As First Assistant In Surgery:

Registered Nurses may serve as first assistant in surgery in cases compatible with their preparation and experience.

The medical staff, hospital administration and nursing service department of any hospital that permits registered nurses to serve as first assistant in surgery shall have mutually agreed upon written policies under which the registered nurse may safely act as a first assistant. The policies should include qualifications of nurses who may act in this capacity, the types of surgical procedures in which they may act in this capacity and prohibitions. The safety and welfare of parties must be given primary consideration in the development of such policies.

#### Licensed Practical Nurses Acting As First Assistants in the Operating Room:

After a request from the Board of Nursing to the Board of Medicine regarding LPN's acting as first assistants in the operating room, the Board of Medicine responded that LPN's may be used as first assistants in the operating room when appropriate.

Accepted: June 30, 1976; January 1994

Revised: November 18, 2003 [combined 90-1 & 90-12]