

APA-1
11/96

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control 610 Department or Agency Alabama Board of Nursing
Rule No. 610-X-7-.04
Rule Title Registered Nurse as Surgical First Assistant (RNFA)
 New X Amend Repeal Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services involved and, if so, to what degree? No

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule? No

Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? No

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer  Peggy Benson, RN, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC

Date May 19, 2017

DATE FILED
(STAMP)

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11/96

ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Board of Nursing

RULE NO. & TITLE: Rule 610-X-7-.04, Registered Nurse as
Surgical First Assistant (RNFA)

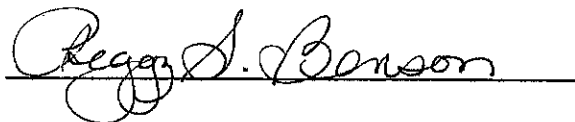
INTENDED ACTION: The Alabama Board of Nursing proposes to amend the regulations related to RNFAs.

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Alabama Board of Nursing proposes to amend Administrative Code, Rule 610-X-7-.04, Registered Nurse as Surgical First Assistant (RNFA). A copy of the proposed amended rule may be found on the Board's web site, www.abn.alabama.gov, under "laws" and then "proposed rule changes." The proposed changes allow for the RNFA to perform secondary placement of a trocar, consistent with the RNFA standards of practice.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Written or verbal comments will be received by the Board of Nursing until 4:30 P.M. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017. Verbal or written comments should be directed to Peggy Benson, Executive Officer, at P.O. Box 303900, Montgomery, AL 36130-3900 or via electronic mail at Peggy.Benson@abn.alabama.gov or via telephone at 334-293-5210.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:
The record closes at 4:30 P.M. on Wednesday, July 5, 2017.

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY: Peggy Benson, Executive Officer.



Executive Officer

ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING
ADMINISTRATIVE CODECHAPTER 610-X-7
STANDARDS OF NURSING PRACTICE; SPECIFIC SETTINGS610-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

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-21-2(c)(21).

History: New Rule: Filed February 4, 1997; effective March 11, 1997. **Repealed:** Filed October 29, 2001; effective December 3, 2001. **New Rule:** Filed November 23, 2009; effective December 28, 2009. **Amended:** Filed April 15, 2010; effective May 20, 2010. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed July 25, 2016; effective September 8, 2016.