

Nevada State Board of Nursing
Practice Decision
Registered Nurse First Assist and Saphenous Vein Harvesting

It is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse First Assist to prepare/harvest a saphenous vein for coronary artery bypass grafting. The Registered Nurse must be qualified as a Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) or a Certified Nurse First Assistant (CRNFA) provided the following guidelines are followed. (The nurse in the following text refers to either the RNFA or the CRNFA):

1. The nurse must have successfully completed an RN First Assistant program that meets the *Association of Operating Room Nurse (AORN) Education Standards for RN First Assistant Programs* and a clinical preceptorship devoted to the application of knowledge and clinical skills associated with the process of harvesting a coronary conduit/saphenous vein. The nurse must maintain documentation of competency and maintain current CNOR certification.
2. The nurse will use surgical instruments to perform dissection or manipulate tissue as directed by the surgeon to accomplish preparation/harvest of a saphenous vein.
3. As part of informed consent, the patient or responsible party is informed that a nurse will be performing the procedure.
4. The nurse is competent to perform the procedure and has the documented and demonstrated knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the procedure pursuant to NAC [632.071](#), [632.224](#), and [632.225](#).
5. There are agency policies and procedures, a provision for privileging, and any required protocols in place for the nurse to perform the procedure.
6. The nurse maintains accountability and responsibility for nursing care related to post-operative follow up for the procedure and follows the accepted standard of care which would be provided by a reasonable and prudent nurse.
7. The procedure is performed interdependently by the surgeon and the nurse. The surgeon must be in attendance while the nurse performs this procedure.

References:

Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN) (2018) RNFA Standards of Practice. Retrieved from: <https://www.aprn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/rn-first-assistant-resources>

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