HEALTHTRUST
Workforce Solutions

DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

Division: SAN ANTONIO
DHP Classification: PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT
Name of Dependent Healthcare Professional (DHP):

Pathologists' Assistant:
The Pathologists' Assistant must have equivalent qualifications, competence and function in the same role as employed individuals performing the same or similar services at the facility, as defined by facility job description.

Definition of Care or Service:
The Pathologists' Assistant acts under the direction of an MHS medical staff pathologist, performs various tasks in surgical pathology, and autopsy pathology. The scope of service may include:

- Filling out appropriate paperwork, label and stain slides, record information provided by the pathologist
- Help package specimens for transport
- Prepare tissue for numerous pathological tests
- Participate in the examination, dissection and processing of tissue samples
- Participate in the gross autopsy dissection
- Preparation, gross description and dissection of human tissue surgical specimens
- Examination of specimens will be those that are completely submitted for microscopic examination (e.g., uterine curetting's, endoscopic biopsies, skin excisions, etc.), those that are received in unoriented pieces that are selectively sampled (e.g., prostate chips, products of conception), and uncomplicated larger specimens that are examined and sampled by routine protocols (e.g., appendices, gallbladders, uterine cone excisions, hemorrhoids, uncomplicated uteri, placentas, etc.). All other specimens will be handled in consultation with a pathologist or deferred to the pathologist for examination.
- Perform the technical components of frozen sections, preparing touch imprints, assisting with the gross dissection of autopsies, and performing routine duties in the Histology Laboratory, e.g., pick up specimens, logging of specimens in the computer, cassette preparation.
- Documents the procedure in the medical record
- Maintains and secures patient specimens and records
- Demonstrates Clinical and Service excellence behaviors to include HCA code of conduct core fundamentals in daily interactions with patients, families, co-workers and physicians

Setting(s):

- Facility lab settings.

Supervision: Direct Supervision of Pathologist on duty

Evaluator: Pathologist and Hospital Laboratory Supervisor

Qualifications:

- High school graduate or equivalent or higher degree
- Must demonstrate education and training which meets Federal Regulations under CLIA 1988 legislation and:
  - Graduate of a NAACLS approved pathologist assistant training program or
  - Received a baccalaureate degree with a major or minor in biological or allied health field
- PREFERRED: National certification for Pathologist Assistants

State Requirements:

-

Experience:
A minimum of three years' work experience as a pathologists' assistant.

HEALTHTRUST
Workforce Solutions

DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

Competencies:
The Pathologists' Assistant will demonstrate:

- Surgical Pathology: Preparation, gross description and dissection of surgical specimens including:
  - Preparing and submitting tissues for histologic processing
  - Assuring appropriate specimen accessioning
  - Describing gross anatomic features of surgical specimens
  - Preparing and submitting appropriate tissue sections for light microscopy (routine processing) as well as special procedures such as frozen section, electron microscopy, and immunofluorescence microscopy
- Autopsy Pathology: Preparation of human postmortem examination:
  - Preparation and submitting tissues for histologic processing
  - Obtains pertinent patient data for review with the pathologist
  - Confers with the pathologist to identify and special techniques and procedures to be utilized in the completion of examination and communicates to all directly involved personnel.
    - Culture smears
    - Histochemical
    - Immunofluorescence
    - Toxicological
    - Viral or microscopic studies
  - Perform postmortem exam to include
    - External examination
    - In situ organ inspection
    - Evisceration
    - Dissection and dictation or recording of date such as organ weights, presence of body fluids, gross anatomic findings, etc
  - Select, prepare, and submit appropriate gross tissue sections for frozen section analysis as well as for light, electron, and immunofluorescent microscopy.
  - Gather and organize data & clinical information pertinent to the preparation of clinical history summarization
- Photographing the body, organs, microscopic slides, and other pertinent materials.
- Effectively communicates any necessary information to physicians and MHS Healthcare team members.
- Infection Prevention
  - Practices consistent hand hygiene
  - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Required immunizations per DHP Division requirements
  - Complies with Isolation precautions

References:
American Association of Pathologists Assistants. www.pathologistsassistants.org.
Cairns, Carol. (2007). Solving the AHP Conundrum: How to Comply with HR Standards Related to Non-privileged Practitioners (Appendix C). HCPro, Inc.: Marblehead, MA.

Document Control:

- Created 09/20/2016
- Revised 06/11/2026

HEALTHTRUST
Workforce Solutions

DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

DHP Printed Name: _____ **DHP Signature:** _____

Company/Vendor: _____ **Date:** _____