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Workforce Solutions

DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE

Division: FAR WEST
Classification: Certified Pathologists' Assistant
Applicant Name:

Pathology Assistant:
The Certified Pathology Assistant must have equivalent qualifications, competence and function in the same role as employed individuals performing the same or similar services at the facility.

Definition of Care or Service:
The Certified Pathology Assistant does specimen handling and processing of tissues submitted to the Pathologist for analysis. In this role, the Certified Pathology Assistant are academically and practically trained to provide accurate and timely processing of a variety of laboratory specimens, including the majority of pathological specimens. They are key components to helping make a pathologic diagnosis, but it is the sole province of the pathologist to render a diagnosis. 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 Healthcare code of conduct core fundamentals in daily interactions with patients, families, co-workers and physicians

Setting(s):

- Hospital Histology Lab Area

Supervision: Direct Supervision of Pathologist on duty

Evaluator: Pathologist and Hospital Laboratory Supervisor

Tier Level: 3

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eSAF Access Required: YES

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher
- National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory (NAACLS) accredited Pathologist Assistant training program.
    - **Grandfather clause:** Prior to 2010, Pathologist Assistants who attained certification from the ASCP BOC have the same qualifications as NAACLS program-trained individuals. (Issue date on ASCP BOC certification must show 2010 or prior)
- Certification or eligible* for certification as a Pathology Assistant from the American Society of Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC).

*NOTE: After one year of entering the workforce, the Pathology Assistant should obtain a certification from the ASCP BOC as a Certified Pathology Assistant.

State Requirements:

- N/A

Experience:

- N/A

Competencies:

The Certified Pathology Assistant will demonstrate:

- Safe and effective operation of pathology equipment
- Maintains equipment in good working order
- Demonstrates effective infection control practices related to equipment operation
- Accurate patient information review and evaluation
- Uses at least two patient identifiers for patient identification before assisting in a procedure
- Accurately obtains clinical history and obtains medical records/charts for review
- Verifies that the requested procedure correlates with the patient's clinical history, presentation and physician order
- Follows HIPAA and HITECH policies.
- Accesses the patient medical record appropriately and documents in the medical record according to the facility standard / policy
- Demonstrates competency in specimen accessioning
- Appropriately describes gross features of surgical specimens
- Accurately prepares tissues for processing for light microscopy
- Accurately prepares samples for studies such as flow cytometry, image analysis, research, cytogenetics, cultures, electron microscopy, immunofluorescence
- Accurately prepares frozen sections.
- Assure legal authorization for autopsy gross specimens and microscopic slides
- Maintenance of surgical/ autopsy pathology protocols, procedures, reports and data
- Assures proper maintenance of equipment
- Assures provision of adequate supplies for and cleanliness of the surgical and autopsy suites
- Assists in preparation for accreditation inspections (College of American Pathologists (CAP), The Joint Commission (TJC))
- Maintains a safe environment
- Infection Prevention

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- Practices consistent hand hygiene
- Uses personal protective equipment (PPE) when required
- Required immunizations per Division requirements
- Complies with Isolation precautions
- Maintains sterile field

References:
American Association Pathologists Assistants https://www.pathassist.org/
NAACLS https://www.naacls.org/Find-a-Program.aspx
ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) https://www.ascp.org/content/Board-of-Certification
Allied Health Fields: https://explorehealthcareers.org/field/allied-health-professions/

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- Revised 7/9/2026

Your signature confirms you will be able to comply with the Qualifications and Competencies listed within this Scope of Service and that you will confirm education via your background check.

Applicant Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____