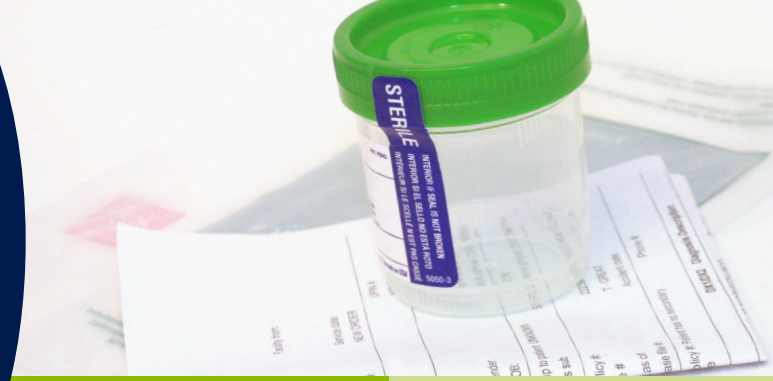


# Surgical Technologist and Surgical Assistant Registration



## Background

House Bill 16-1160 (HB 1160) adds new provisions to surgical assistant registration requirements, which now require hospitals to report positive drug tests. Drug diversion incidents at hospitals in Colorado have received substantial media coverage in recent months, and HB 1160 is an effort to curb this trend.

## What You Need to Know

If the employer requires a drug test when applying for employment, the employer must notify the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) of a positive drug test. This rule applies when a test is confirmed as positive for a controlled substance that is not justified with a valid prescription. Prior to registering with DORA, an individual applying for registration as a surgical assistant or surgical technician must submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history background check. If a surgical assistant or surgical technician fails to renew their registration and the registration expires, the individual cannot be reinstated without undergoing another fingerprint-based criminal background check. The individual applying for registration with DORA will be responsible for costs associated with fingerprint-based criminal background checks, whenever one is required.

## Additional Resources

- [HB 1160 Fiscal Note](#)
- HB 1160 took effect on Aug. 10, 2016.

For questions or more information, contact Amber Burkhart, CHA policy analyst, at 720.330.6028.