A. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

To establish scope of assessment for the Department of Surgery.

B. SCOPE:

The Department of Surgery physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, and nursing assistants are covered by the policy.

C. ADMINISTRATION:

This policy will be revised by the administrator and approved by the chairman.

D. TEXT

It is the goal of the Department of Surgery to educate the patients and move the patients to independence and self care. (Refer to SOM Clinic Policy 306) Patient teaching includes patient handouts, pamphlets, videos, pre and post operative teaching, which provides the patients with the skills to care for himself/herself. Teaching involves the patient, parents, other family, and anyone involved with the care. Teaching includes, but is not limited to: wound care, diet/nutrition, and special instructions for studies, i.e. X-ray, special procedures, Doppler studies, self cautery, as well as, medication use/side effects, community services, smoking/use of tobacco products, and dressing changes. Patient teaching is noted on the progress note (see attached).

Patients and family are encouraged to ask questions while in the clinic and are provided with the clinic telephone number to allow the patient to call and ask additional questions if necessary. Often the patient/family is asked to return a demonstration of a certain procedure to assure that the patient/family can properly perform the procedure and to provide encouragement to the patient.

E. DISTRIBUTION

This policy and procedure should be distributed to all Department of Surgery Employees.

F. REVISION

It shall be the responsibility of the administrator and/or designee to indicate any revisions to this policy and it shall be the responsibility of the chairman to approve any revisions to this policy.