



THE AMERICAN BOARD OF CARDIOVASCULAR PERFUSION

1975-2025 50th Anniversary

WILLIAM D. RILEY, CCP
PRESIDENT

EMILY SAULITIS COLLINS, CCP
VICE PRESIDENT

KIRSTEN R. KALLIES, CCP
SECRETARY

EMILY L. THUNSTROM-KAHRING, CCP
TREASURER

MERCEDES ENGLEHART, CCP

JWANA IBSIES, CCP

SCOTT M. NOESGES, CCP

CALEB VARNER, CCP

August 6, 2025

Greetings from the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion.

The American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) strives to develop and maintain quality standards in cardiovascular perfusion that promote the safety and protection of the public. With the recent developments and advances in organ procurement, including Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) and ex vivo perfusion, ABCP has sent three unique position statements on this topic to specific groups across the community.

The “Normothermic Regional Perfusion & Ex Vivo Perfusion Position” letter, which organizations of the perfusion community endorsed and was distributed to the perfusion community in Fall of 2024, stated that Certified Clinical Perfusionists (CCPs) are the only medical professionals formally educated and trained in adult and pediatric extracorporeal technology as well as numerous ancillary techniques and technologies. To ensure that our partners in state licensing and state perfusion societies received similar messaging, the ABCP distributed a unique iteration of this letter, specific to their role in our profession, to all state licensure boards and state perfusion organizations in the United States.

Lastly, a letter was addressed to all Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) explicitly requesting their “cooperation and support to properly apply the title of Perfusionist and Certified Clinical Perfusionist across the realm of transplant medicine and help us to ensure that all clinicians are presenting themselves with accurate and appropriate credentials.” OPOs have the responsibility for how their clinicians represent themselves during organ retrieval and transfers. There are multiple, credible reports of individuals participating in organ procurement who are not CCPs or even perfusionists (licensed or otherwise) but claim to have such a title. Perfusionists have extensive, specific formal training and credentialing in extracorporeal circulatory support and ancillary technologies through higher education degrees and robust continuing education. OPOs, allowing and/or encouraging individuals who have not completed perfusion training on how to represent themselves as “perfusionists,” or to insinuate that they are “perfusionists” create unsafe breaches in communication that place multiple lives at risk throughout the entire transplant process. In summary, it is through the highest standards of initial certification and annual

555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823
PHONE: (414) 918-3008
FAX: (414) 276-3349
EMAIL: info@abcp.org
www.abcp.org



THE AMERICAN BOARD OF CARDIOVASCULAR PERFUSION

1975-2025 50th Anniversary

recertification that CCPs are the only medical professionals formally educated and trained in extracorporeal support for adult and pediatric organ procurement and transplants. The emerging technologies of ex vivo organ procurement and NRP have enhanced the viability of donated organs, and the trajectory of these techniques is robust. As the only medical professionals with the appropriate training, clinical experience, continuing education, and professional support necessary to reliably and optimally perform these critical procedures, the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion endorses and supports the use of CCPs/licensed perfusionists in their areas of expertise for these procedures. The ABCP collaborates with all perfusion licensure states and state agencies to help ensure public safety by protecting the public from any impersonators of certified and/or licensed perfusionists.

As such, please find all of the related position statements on our website (<https://www.abcp.org/general-information/position-statements>). The ABCP welcomes and encourages the perfusion community to share these position statements with your colleagues, surgeons, hospital leadership, state societies, or any other organizations as you see fit. Additionally, if there are any entities or individuals you would like our staff to send these letters to on behalf of ABPC, please reach out to the ABCP National Office (info@abcp.org) with recipient contact information and we will be happy to pass the information along. Your continued support and vigilance in this area are appreciated and impactful.

Sincerely,

Officers and Directors

The American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion