



# THE AMERICAN BOARD OF CARDIOVASCULAR PERFUSION

**1975-2025 50th Anniversary**

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March 25, 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. Governed by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), perfusion school standards are maintained and taught utilizing structured medical education and clinical rotations. They are the basis for certification through an exam process to obtain the status of Certified Clinical Perfusionist (CCP). These standards have been in place for nearly fifty years, and effectively demonstrated the importance of having a structured certification platform. For the past 30 years these same standards have been a cornerstone of state perfusion licensure across the United States.

Most recently, CCPs have been at the epicenter of advances in organ procurement including Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) and ex vivo perfusion. NRP and ex vivo are areas perfectly suited for CCPs to utilize their education, experience, and other benefits of clinical certification to support patient safety and overall operative success. NRP and ex vivo perfusion are similar in all respects as defined by the basis of training and application of clinical knowledge. Ex vivo perfusion devices can be defined as miniature Cardiopulmonary Bypass (CPB) systems, utilizing all the same processes and technology required for whole body end-organ perfusion but for a specific single organ; each with its own physiologic profile. As devices vary in organ flow and pressure regulation requirements, the CCP must respond in a manner very similar to patients undergoing CPB. NRP is an in vivo process to reanimate and preserve organs and includes the use of modified or standard CPB machines and disposables. The NRP process is very complex and still developing in all regards to organ resuscitation, reanimation and reperfusion.

Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) have the responsibility of how clinicians are presenting themselves during organ retrieval and transfers. We have heard reports of individuals appearing for organ procurement who are not CCPs or licensed perfusionists, but claim to have such a title. OPOs allowing, and possibly instructing, individuals on how to present themselves as perfusionists can place multiple lives at risk during the entire process. At this time, all perfusion licensure states require graduating from an accredited perfusion program for all licensing purposes. Therefore, the ABCP aims to closely collaborate with all licensure states and state agencies to ensure the safety of the public from any impersonators of certified and/or licensed perfusionists.

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In summary, CCPs are the only medical professionals formally educated and trained in adult and pediatric organ procurement and transplants. Annual recertification through the ABCP maintains the high standards required to practice safely and effectively in these high acuity medical scenarios. The emerging technologies of ex vivo organ procurement and NRP have enhanced the viability of donated organs, and the trajectory of these techniques appears to be 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 only utilizing CCPs/licensed perfusionists for these procedures.

As such, we are reaching out to ask for your cooperation and support in our endeavor to properly ensure 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 in all aspects and arenas of healthcare. We wanted to make you aware of the rising safety issue created by OPOs and will be willing to collaborate on a shared message of zero tolerance for the safety of the public. We look forward to hearing from you with any questions or concerns, and especially any ideas or strategies to promote this initiative. In the meantime, please stay tuned for any updates as they are available.

Sincerely,

Officers and Directors  
The American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion