

Code of Professional Conduct

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF PERFUSIONISTS CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Introduction:

A Perfusionist is a skilled person, qualified by academic and clinical education and by practical experience, who prepares, operates and controls a patient's extracorporeal circulation equipment during cardiopulmonary by-pass (CPB). The Perfusionist may additionally prepare, operate and control this equipment during extracorporeal life support (ECLS), or any medical situation where it is necessary to support, or temporarily replace, a patient's circulatory function. The Perfusionist ensures the safe management of physiological functions by monitoring the patient's relevant physiological, biochemical and pharmacological variables.

Perfusionists are generally part of a team of practitioners, comprising four key groups – perfusionists, a surgical team, an anaesthetist or intensivist care group and a nursing group. The perfusionist works as an independent member of this larger team supported by training, certification, experience and under agreed hospital protocols. It is often the case that the Director of the Cardiac Surgery Unit or another medical practitioner acts or serves as the overall leader of this team.

Within this document a Perfusionist is defined as a person who holds current Certification from the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) or equivalent Certification recognised by the ABCP.

Under the ANZCP Code of Professional Conduct, a Perfusionist shall:

1. Regard the well-being of the patient as the first consideration.
2. Abide by and be bound by the Australia and New Zealand College of Perfusion (ANZCP) Guidelines and Scope of Practice document
3. Practice only in the area or areas of perfusion in which they have the knowledge, skills, capability and experience to practice safely and effectively.
4. Supply professional advice at appropriate times.
5. Keep up-to-date with the progress of contemporary, evidence based perfusion technology and knowledge to maintain the highest standards of professional competence.
6. Respect the privacy and confidentiality of patient information and data.
7. Consult professional colleagues and other health professionals when deemed to be in the best interest of the patient.
8. Assist colleagues and other health professionals when called on for help, advice or support.
9. Ensure that all equipment utilised in the performance of perfusion is adequately and appropriately maintained.
10. Ensure that all appropriate safety precautions are taken to safeguard the patient and work colleagues.

11. Provide full, accurate and truthful information to the patient regarding professional services and do not mislead the patient regarding the nature, cost or value of the Perfusionist's professional services.
12. Maintain effective professional relationships with colleagues and other health professionals. Refrain from publicly criticising them and pay due regard to their opinions and achievements.
13. Maintain the confidence and trust placed in colleagues by patients.
14. Refrain from association with fraudulent and unethical practice and practitioners.
15. Practise only under conditions which ensure professional integrity.
16. Have available at all times a complete manual of Standard Operating Procedures relevant to the Hospital or Institution.
17. Observe and comply with the ANZCP Code of Ethical Practice.

This Code should be read in conjunction with the ANZCP Guidelines and Scope of Practice document.