

Professional Indemnity Insurance

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF PERFUSIONISTS

Professional Indemnity Insurance Guidance

Limitations of this Information

This document provides general information only and does not constitute legal, financial, or insurance advice.

Clinical perfusionists should seek independent legal advice or consult a qualified professional indemnity insurer regarding their individual circumstances and insurance requirements.

This policy is in alignment with Section 16 of the National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers, which requires all unregistered health practitioners maintain appropriate indemnity insurance arrangements.

What is Professional Indemnity Insurance?

Professional indemnity insurance assists in protecting clinical perfusionists against claims arising from civil liability associated with the provision of professional perfusion services or advice. This may include claims relating to alleged negligence, errors, omissions, or breaches of professional duty occurring during professional practice.

Professional indemnity insurance generally does not cover unlawful, fraudulent, reckless, or intentionally harmful conduct.

Why is Professional Indemnity Insurance Important?

Maintaining appropriate professional indemnity insurance is an important component of safe and accountable healthcare practice. It supports both practitioners and patients by helping ensure that compensation and legal support may be available where a covered claim arises.

Professional indemnity insurance may assist with:

- Legal defence costs associated with covered claims;
- Damages or settlement amounts payable under a policy;
- Access to legal and professional support during claims processes; and
- Reducing personal financial exposure arising from professional practice.

Without appropriate insurance coverage, a practitioner may become personally responsible for legal costs, damages, or settlement amounts associated with a successful civil claim.

Professional indemnity insurance also supports public confidence in healthcare services by promoting professional accountability and consumer protection.

Limits and Conditions of Insurance Cover

Professional indemnity insurance policies are subject to specific terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations. Practitioners should carefully review their policy documentation to understand:

- The scope of cover provided;
- Any exclusions or restricted activities;
- Applicable excess payments;
- Notification obligations; and
- Policy limits and sub-limits.

Policies commonly include maximum liability limits such as \$2 million, \$5 million, \$10 million, or \$20 million. Some policies may also include sub-limits that restrict the amount payable for certain claim types or individual incidents.

Where a claim exceeds the applicable policy limit or falls outside the scope of cover, the practitioner may remain personally liable for the outstanding amount.

Reviewing Your Insurance Arrangements

Clinical perfusionists should regularly review their professional indemnity insurance arrangements to ensure the level and scope of cover remain appropriate to their professional role, scope of practice, and work environment.

It is recommended that practitioners review their insurance:

- Annually at policy renewal;
- When changing employers or practice settings;
- When expanding or changing scope of practice; and
- When undertaking additional clinical, consultancy, education, or leadership responsibilities.

Determining Whether You Are Covered

All individuals practising perfusion should ensure they are appropriately covered by professional indemnity insurance relevant to their role and practice arrangements.

If you are employed by a healthcare organisation, you should confirm with your employer whether professional indemnity cover is provided under the organisation's insurance arrangements and whether any limitations apply.

If you are a member of a professional association or union, professional indemnity insurance may be included as part of membership benefits or available as an optional inclusion.

Practitioners working independently, as contractors, sole traders, or through private companies, are generally responsible for arranging and maintaining their own professional indemnity insurance. Service agreements and contracts may also specify minimum insurance requirements that must be maintained.

Professional Responsibility

Maintaining appropriate professional indemnity insurance forms part of professional and ethical healthcare practice and supports compliance with contemporary professional standards, governance expectations, and risk management principles within Australia and New Zealand healthcare settings.

Professional Indemnity Insurance Companies

ANZCP is not affiliated with any major insurance company and has listed a few examples of companies that offer professional indemnity insurance to health professionals.

AON - <https://business-insurance.aon.com.au/professional-indemnity-insurance>

GUILD - <https://www.guildinsurance.com.au/professional>

VERO - <https://www.vero.com.au/professional-financial-risks/professional-indemnity.html>