

Code of Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct

INTRODUCTION

The Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists (ANZCP) is the peak body representing Certified Clinical Perfusionists in Australia and New Zealand. The code supports a culture of value based patient centred healthcare, reflective professional practice and continuous improvement and learning within the Clinical Perfusion profession.

Purpose

The objective of this Code of Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct is to identify fundamental values and principles for Certified Clinical Perfusionists and Clinical Perfusion Trainees. The Code is a broad framework to ensure legal, ethical, safe, evidence-based and quality practice that supports patient-centred and value-based healthcare delivery. The Code informs and protects the Clinical Perfusionists who are covered by it, and those who use their services.

The Code offers guidance when making professional and clinical decisions. It does not specify how to make decisions or to act in particular situations. Commitment by Clinical Perfusionists to this Code helps ensure consistent approaches and standards of professional and ethical behaviour across the Clinical Perfusion profession in Australia and New Zealand.

Who the Code applies to

The ANZCP's Code of Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct applies to Clinical Perfusion Trainee members and Fellows of the ANZCP, and to non-members who are Certified (see definitions section, below) by the Australian and New Zealand Board of Perfusion. It is a requirement, at the time of:

- Registering a traineeship in Clinical Perfusion under the Certification Policy (in the case of a Clinical Perfusion Trainees); and
- Initial Certification and at re-Certification (for a Certified Clinical Perfusionist, or Provisional Clinical Perfusionist)

to declare that they will comply with this Code and, in the case of re-Certification, have complied with the Code.

Clinical Perfusionists covered by this Code have a professional responsibility to be familiar with and comply with its requirements.

Complaints about conduct or practice which does not meet the requirements of the Code

This Code assists ANZCP to regulate the Clinical Perfusion profession by providing minimum standards of ethical and professional practice, which are enforceable against Clinical Perfusionists.

Any person can make a complaint about a Clinical Perfusionist who is subject to this Code, or who was at the time that the conduct or issue being complained about occurred, through the ANZCP's Complaints Procedure [available on the ANZCP's website](#). A Clinical Perfusionist found to be in breach of the Code can be subject to disciplinary action, such as suspension or termination of their ANZCP membership and/or Certification (if applicable).

REVIEW

This Code will be reviewed by the ANZCP at least every 5 years. The review process will involve consideration of changes in the health landscape and include broad member and stakeholder consultation. The process will be advertised on the ANZCP website to allow for external participation.

DEFINITIONS

In this Code, terms which are capitalised are proper nouns or are defined in this section.

Where a term is defined in this section as having a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or expression have a corresponding meaning. For example, Certified means certified by the ANZCP and Certification means the process of becoming Certified.

ANZCP means the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusion (also known as The Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists) ABN 59 896 655 656.

ANZCP Rules means the “Rules of The Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists Incorporated”, as approved by the ANZCP on 7th December 2024, or any subsequent superseding document by that name.

Certified means certified as meeting the ANZCP standards for Certification as a Clinical Perfusionist, as described in the ANZCP Certification Policy. In practice, a Certified Clinical Perfusionist may be a Fellow Member of the ANZCP or may be a non-member who has been Certified by the ANZCP as meeting the educational and clinical standards to become a Fellow Member.

Clinical Perfusionist: A Clinical 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). A Clinical 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. A Clinical Perfusionist ensures the safe management of physiological functions by monitoring the patient’s relevant physiological, biochemical and pharmacological variables. Clinical Perfusionists covered by this Code are described in the introductory section under “Who this Code applies to”.

Competency Standards means the ANZCP document of that name.

Fitness to Practice: A Clinical Perfusionist is 'fit to practice' if they:

1. meet the Competency Standards; and
2. comply with the professional standards set out in this Code of Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct; and
3. demonstrate engagement in ongoing self-reflective practice, continuing professional development and lifelong learning to maintain and improve professional competence; and
4. after making all necessary declarations in accordance with the Mandatory Declarations Policy including:
 - a) health and impairment; and
 - b) criminal history; and
 - c) complaints and disciplinary history,the ANZCP has considered the information contained in the application and declarations, and decided there are no material grounds to believe the applicant is not a fit and proper person to practise safely, competently and ethically as a Certified Clinical Perfusionist.

Mandatory Declarations Policy means the ANZCP policy of that name.

Mandatory Reporting Obligations means any obligation imposed by law to report a concern about a patient or the conduct of a health practitioner.

Scope of Practice means the area in which the Clinical Perfusionist has the knowledge, skills and experience to practice lawfully, safely and effectively, in a way that meets professional standards and does not pose any danger to the public or to the Clinical Perfusionist. Refer to the Scope of Practice Policy for a broad description of the Scope of Practice for Clinical Perfusion. However, the ANZCP acknowledges that a Clinical Perfusionist's Scope of Practice will evolve throughout their career, in line with changes to roles, the development of skills, reflective practice, lifelong learning and best, evidence-based practice in the field of perfusion.

Scope of Practice Policy means the ANZCP policy of that name.

Provisional Clinical Perfusionist means a Clinical Perfusionist who is provisionally certified by the ANZCP;

Clinical Perfusion Trainee means a Clinical Perfusionist who has registered a traineeship under the Certification Policy, with a view to one day seeking Certification.

Vexatious Notification means a complaint/concern without substance, made with an intent to cause distress, detriment or harassment to a practitioner named in the notification. Legitimate notifications (are motivated by genuine concerns about patient safety).

THE CODE OF ETHICAL PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

A Clinical Perfusionist must:

1. Respect the rights and dignity of all individuals.
2. Regard the well-being, safety, dignity and outcomes of the patient as their first consideration in practice.
3. Help all those who seek their professional services, without discrimination.
4. Provide honest, competent, and accountable professional services.
5. Maintain their Fitness to Practice.
6. Recognise the extent and limitations of their professional expertise and experience, and only undertake activities that are within their Scope of Practice.
7. Consider and apply the ANZCP Standards and Guidelines for Perfusion Practice, in their practice, while contributing to quality improvement, evidence-based practice and value-based healthcare initiatives within their workplace
8. Maintain a commitment to lifelong learning by keeping up-to-date with the progress of contemporary, evidence based perfusion practice, technology and knowledge, and maintain the highest ongoing standards of professional competence through participation in the ANZCP Continuing Professional Development Program.
9. Maintain their clinical skills by continuing to practice as required by the Recency and Resumption of Practice Policy.
10. Engage in regular self-reflective practice, lifelong learning and continuous professional development to support safe, evidence-based and value-based patient care.
11. Comply with all federal and state laws, and regulations, under which they practice.
12. Respect the privacy and confidentiality of patient information and data, keeping all personal and medical information entrusted to them confidential, unless disclosure is authorised or required by law, or considered to be in the best interests and safety of the patient / client / colleague.
13. Contribute to the planning, evaluation and development of services that promote safe, sustainable, equitable and value based patient care within the community.
14. Recognise that a Clinical Perfusionist, in all professional activities, represents the profession, whose foundation is based on the ideal of service to the individual and the community, as expressed in this Code. Behave in all circumstances in a manner that will enhance the honour of the profession.
15. Consult and provide professional advice to colleagues and other health professionals whenever it is deemed to be in the best interest of the patient and to optimise patient outcomes.
16. Assist colleagues and other health professionals when called on for professional help, advice or support.
17. Ensure that all equipment utilised in the performance of perfusion is adequately and appropriately maintained.
18. Ensure that all appropriate safety precautions are taken to protect yourself, patients and colleagues.
19. 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 Clinical Perfusionist's professional services.
20. Maintain effective professional relationships with colleagues and other health professionals. Do not bully, harass or publicly criticise them.

21. Do not associate with fraudulent and unethical practice or practitioners.
22. Practice, at all times, with professional integrity by consistently and willingly practicing within the guidelines of the ANZCP (including this Code) and to support the mission of the profession of Clinical Perfusion.
23. Ensure that, at all times when practicing, they have access to the hospital or other institution's standard operating procedures.
24. Comply with all Mandatory Reporting Obligations, and refrain from Vexatious Notifications.
25. Cooperate with any legitimate enquiry into the treatment of a patient and with any complaints procedures or investigations that apply to your work and/or professional responsibilities by providing accurate, honest information when requested.