

CODE OF PRACTICE – CLINICAL PERFUSION

PRODUCED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE PROFESSIONS COMPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE

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Occupational Description

A clinical perfusionist is an academically and clinically qualified, skilled person who operates and manages extracorporeal circulatory equipment, namely the heart lung machine. This equipment is used during cardio-pulmonary bypass and other surgical procedures that require support to or temporary replacement of the patient's circulatory function. The perfusionist is also accountable for ensuring safe management of physiological functions during such procedures by means of various monitoring and analytical equipment.

Scope of Practice

The Clinical Perfusionist shall:

- Provide his services to the patient upon prescription of a physician/surgeon. He/she should adopt methods and techniques that promote and safeguard the wellbeing and safety of the patient.
- Supervise and instruct perfusion techniques conducted by perfusion trainees who are following an established course of study.
- Perform cardio-pulmonary bypass with the assistance of another perfusionist/trainee perfusionist.
- Use the appropriate equipment and techniques based on his/her clinical judgement and in line with established protocols and liaise with the rest of the cardiac team in order to ensure the health and safety of staff and patient.
- Respect the confidentiality of any restricted information encountered during the course of his/her professional practice.
- Practice collaborative teamwork both intra and inter professionally for the benefit of the patient.
- Write protocols for both routine and emergency procedures when required.

- Compile detailed perfusion-related records at specific time intervals during procedures, as established by the protocol. These records should also include an appropriate checklist.
- Perform quality control, troubleshooting, preventive and routine maintenance on all the equipment used. This responsibility is also inclusive to analytical equipment and monitoring devices. Appropriate records are to be kept to this regard.
- Record all perfusion-related incidents, accidents and failure of equipment and report these to the appropriate authority.
- Adjudicate and evaluate perfusion-related equipment and consumables.
- Practice perfusion-related emergency drills on a regular basis.
- Keep abreast with developments in perfusion technology and practice by engaging him/herself in continuing professional development.

It is highly recommended that every Clinical Perfusionist carries out Continuing Professional Development.