



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

433 River Street, Suite 303
Troy, New York 12180-2299

February 9, 2007
DPACS 07-03

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

This letter is written to clarify for hospitals the Department's expectations in regard to the job performance and responsibilities of cardiovascular perfusionists functioning primarily in hospital operating rooms when working under the direction of the cardiac surgeon and/or anesthesiologist. Perfusionists are skilled technicians, 405.22 (d)(2)(iii), 10NYCRR, trained to operate and monitor the performance of extracorporeal circulation equipment during cardiac procedures, in conjunction with post-surgical monitoring, or, outside of the operating room to support patients with circulatory failure.

Many senior perfusionists working in New York State received their training while working in operating rooms without the formal training and certification that is now available. New York State currently has two programs to train perfusionists and there are many more throughout the country. Program requirements frequently include prior education and experience as a nurse or respiratory therapist with training in chemistry, cardiovascular physiology, pharmacology and medical technology. For credentialing purposes, hospitals should document that a perfusionist has completed specialized training in a cardiovascular perfusion education program or has comparable training through experience and education in an active program of cardiac surgery, and has demonstrated competency in advanced techniques of extracorporeal technology. The hospital is also responsible for ensuring that the perfusionist technician has met the facility's health and physical requirements, has received required immunizations and complied with required infection control policies and procedures. The role, responsibilities and oversight of the technician must be consistent with those set forth in the hospital's policies and procedures, and appropriate to the training, experience and competencies of the perfusionist technician.

I am hopeful the information provided will assist hospitals in meeting current requirements. Should you have questions regarding the information provided, you may contact this office at the address above or at (518) 402-1003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin J. Conroy". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Martin J. Conroy
Director
Division of Primary and Acute Care Services