

Perfusion

>>What is a Perfusionist?

Perfusionists are health professionals and part of the cardiovascular team. They are Science graduates who have successfully completed a further two-year training course in perfusion and who have been awarded the ABCP Diploma of Perfusion. They are specifically trained to operate extracorporeal circulation equipment during cardiopulmonary bypass and all its associated therapies. They work in both paediatric and adult surgical units.

Where do Perfusionists work in Tasmania?

Perfusionists work in those public and private hospitals providing cardiovascular services.

How do Perfusionists work in DHHS?

Perfusion is the technology of organ preservation by the circulation of oxygenated blood outside the body, using a heartlung bypass machine. In most cases, perfusion is performed to allow a patient undergoing heart surgery to be maintained in a safe and stable condition while his/her heart is stopped for the purpose of operative repair. Virtually all heart operations, therefore, require the services of a perfusionist to operate the heart-lung bypass machine. Other procedures requiring perfusionists include: Cardiopulmonary bypass (perfusion); Intra-aortic balloon counter-pulsation; Mechanical Circulatory Support (VAD); Autotransfusion; ECLS (Extracorporeal Life Support); Isolated limb perfusion; Bypass for liver surgery; Organ procurement; Research & development.

Perfusionists work at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

What qualifications and regulations are required to practice?

Graduates who hold a Diploma in Perfusion from the Australasian Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) are eligible to be registered with the Perfusionists Registration Board. The registration board is the regulatory body for the profession. Perfusionists who have qualified in a country other than Australia are required to submit their qualifications and evidence of perfusion practice to the Australian Perfusion Board for approval. Such registration is not automatic and may require further examination. Registration must be applied for every three years. The perfusionist must manage a minimum of 40 cases each year and submit a record of continuing education activity. The Board provides a register of accredited professional continuing education activities.

Useful links

<http://www.anzcp.org/index.htm>