

JOINT PERFUSION COVID-19 TASK FORCE

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PERFUSION LICENSING AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

The recent coronavirus outbreak will have a major impact on the perfusion community because perfusionists are at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic providing extracorporeal support to the most critically ill patients. Many of those perfusionists practice in states with licensing statutes. The Joint Perfusion COVID-19 Task Force (JPCTF) is comprised of representatives from AmSECT, the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion, the American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion, the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists, Comprehensive Care Services, Perfusion.com, SpecialtyCare, and the Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons. The JPCTF is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on perfusion community and our patients. The JPCTF reserves the right to amend the recommendations below accordingly. At this time, The Joint Perfusion COVID-19 Task Force recommends the following:

- 1) States with licensing statutes should consider temporarily loosening regulations to permit perfusionists licensed in other states or Certified Clinical Perfusionists in states that do not regulate perfusionists to provide perfusion services to hospitals in order to allow as many credentialed perfusionists to provide patient care as are available.
- 2) States with licensing statutes whose license renewal periods fall within the timeline of this crisis should consider the following provisions:
 - a. Extending license renewal periods:
 - i. in states with emergency declarations, 60 days after the State's emergency declaration has been lifted; or
 - ii. in states without formal emergency declarations, 60 days after the State's reported numbers of COVID-19 patients are less than 15% of the State's reported peak for more than 14 calendar days.
 - b. Regarding continuing education credit requirements:
 - i. waiving the continuing education credit requirements for renewal periods through December 2020; or
 - ii. reducing the continuing education credits required commensurate with the abbreviated time frame.

An extensive number of medical conferences have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Perfusionists should not be penalized due to cancelled meetings beyond their control.

- 3) The American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) appropriately postponed the March 2020 examination window since Prometric testing centers closed across the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ABCP will reschedule the exam once Prometric centers re-open for business. Currently this date is unknown. The next preset opportunity for perfusionists to take the board examination(s) is currently scheduled for October 2020. The Joint Perfusion COVID-19 Task Force advises extending the expiration date for perfusionists practicing with provisional licenses by six (6) months in order to permit these perfusionists the opportunity to sit for the delayed ABCP examination. Certified Clinical Perfusionists are advised to consult the ABCP for guidance regarding recertification.