

Alberta's Health Regions and Voluntary Organizations and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Cardiovascular Perfusionist I**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

Job Summary:

The Cardiovascular Perfusionist assists the attending physicians with any medical and/or surgical procedure requiring cardiopulmonary support or related procedures.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

Core Duties

- Assembles all equipment, drugs and IV solutions required for the procedure.
- Sets up and tests the heart-lung machine and any ancillary equipment.
- Operates and monitors the heart lung machine, intra-aortic balloon pump and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation equipment (ECMO).
- Takes blood gases from the circuit, monitors activated clotting time (ACT) and records results.
- Performs various blood tests, interprets results, adjusts parameters and records all related data.
- Disassembles, cleans, tests and performs routine maintenance on equipment, machinery and supplies.
- Prepares for and monitors cardiopulmonary bypass surgery, heart and lung transplants, and supported percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).
- Performs circulatory support for orthotopic liver transplants.
- In consultation with the attending physician administers blood, various anesthetics and medical gases and other related pharmaceuticals.

Other Related Duties

- Maintains adequate inventory of supplies.
- Participates in the development of related research projects.
- Takes photographs and videotapes during surgery.

Leadership

- Provides clinical direction and supervision to Cardiovascular Perfusion students and Perfusion Aides.
- Assists with training of other health care providers regarding perfusion equipment and techniques.

Decision-Making

- Adapts procedures to accommodate patient condition.
- Troubleshoots equipment malfunctions, and initiates appropriate course of action during surgery, including machine substitution.
- Selects and sets up appropriate equipment and circuits for ambulatory patients.

Knowledge:

Education

- Diploma from an accredited Cardiovascular Perfusion Training Program **plus** Bachelor's Degree or Diploma from a Respiratory Therapy program or a Registered Nurse program **or** Bachelor's Degree in a related health discipline and successful completion of related university courses.

Registration Requirements

- Registered with American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP).

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- Prolonged sitting and standing.
- Assumes awkward positions.
- Lifts and transfers patients and lifts/carries heavy medical equipment.

Work Environment

- Exposure to needlesticks, biohazardous materials, ionizing radiation and chemical hazards.
- Majority of duties performed in surgical suites, intensive care units and radiology departments.
- Accompanies patient in air and ground ambulances.