



Virginia State Perfusion Society
Inova Fairfax Hospital, Cardiovascular Perfusion
3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church, VA 22042

Dear Virginia Perfusionist;

Though we have probably never met we share the same profession and the clinical practice concerns you may have with organizing the profession in the Commonwealth and with pursuing licensure in Virginia. You should have received information from the Virginia State Perfusion Society (VSPS) regarding intentions on reorganizing and pursuing licensure. This letter is a follow up to encourage you to make your feelings heard and to help with the VSPS effort in any way you can.

Due to our own participation, we have a unique understanding of how Virginia perfusionists may feel regarding the VSPS initiatives. Having been involved with licensure in Maryland and Louisiana, North Carolina, and the pending legislation in the District of Columbia, we are aware of anxiety you may feel about such changes. After three years of work and lobbying, Maryland Perfusionists gained licensing this year. Holly was involved in all of these efforts. District of Columbia perfusionists have pending legislation, lead by Carla. Louisiana perfusionists were licensed in 2003 also lead by Carla prior to making the move to Washington, D.C. Ian Shearer was involved with the North Carolina effort, is the incoming President of the North Carolina Society of Perfusionists, and is the current Chair of the Perfusionist Advisory Committee, the body responsible for overseeing licensed perfusionists.

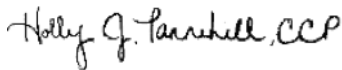
We can attest to the silent majority of perfusionists in a state when it comes to supporting the organizing and licensing of the profession. From our prospective being a licensed professional is better for a number of reasons:

- Patient safety should be the center of concern in practicing a health care profession. Licensure helps ensure this by establishing minimum entry to practice standards and scope of practice responsibilities that define the role of a perfusionist in the delivery of competent care.
- Perfusionists apply the science and technology of the devices we use with patients. While we understand our role inside and outside of the operating room most others do not. A legally recognized scope of practice resolves this and grants the same level of recognition as other licensed professions.
- As unlicensed professionals in a cost driven health system perfusionists will be challenged with identifying new opportunities with medical care that go beyond just running the pump. The changing horizons of our practices have already challenged who is best qualified to perform perfusion functions. Portable extracorporeal cardiopulmonary life support devices are but one example. Regardless of employment setting, experience, or professional relationships a legally defined role is needed to ensure that the roles we have in the delivery of patient care are maintained, or expanded.
- Perfusionists administer drugs, blood, and anesthetic agents in the OR under the supervision of a surgeon and anesthesiologist. Supervision and authority to administer are separate medical/legal principles, but are linked. Licensed perfusionists have state granted authority to perform these functions. Unlicensed perfusionists may not.
- ABCP certification alone is not enough to adequately protect what we do in the state regulatory arena. Certification is a necessary hospital credential but it is only a voluntary credential that carries no recognized state authority in an unlicensed state.

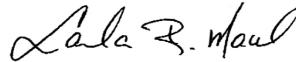
We at one time contemplated the value of being a licensed professional. Was it worth the relatively small additional personal cost? Was it worth the personal participation involved? How would the lobbying process happen? Would we be successful? We learned along the way, and with the help of others were able to get organized and to become licensed.

After thoughtful analysis on our own terms we concluded that licensing is an important tool to ensure that we maintain the critically important roles we have in the delivery of patient care. We thought our perspectives might be worthy of your consideration as regards to the organizing and licensing efforts in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely



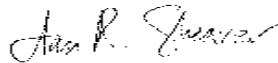
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