GR News

Issue 2011:4

Quarterly Update On State and Federal Public Policy Matters Impacting Perfusion Practices

Comment From Mike Troike, CCP, LP GRC Chairman

The mission of the Government Relations Committee is to inform, support, and prepare the membership to effectively engage medical practice public policy issues affecting the perfusion profession and the delivery of high quality patient care.

This is the introductory issue of the GRC e-newsletter. The committee has heretofore not made a consistent effort to inform the membership on state and federal legislative and regulatory issues as they unfold. The e-newsletter is meant to accomplish this goal. As has always been the case, AmSECT members are encouraged to privately contact the committee representative for their region and state, as identified below.

Members can also contact the Director of Government Relations, Lee Bechtel, to facilitate communications. Communication and feedback are critical to serving membership interests and practice concerns. This includes perfusion students entering the practice of the profession.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS - REGIONS	STATES
Mark Lucus Region 1 mlucas56@hotmail.com	Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
James Reagor Region 2 jreagor@jhmi.edu	Nebraska, N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin
Craig Gassman, Region 3 cjg97@dejazzd.com	Delaware, Maryland, Dist. of Columbia, Virginia, W.Virginia, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont
Mike Troike Region 4 mtroike@bellsouth.net	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas
Lee Bechtel, Director of Government Relations	Bechtel & Associates BALobby@verizon.net

State Credentialing News

The enactment of a licensing law in Maryland in May means that approximately 53% of certified perfusionists nationally are credentialed. For the upcoming 2012 state legislative sessions, the committee expects licensing legislation to be considered in the states of Kansas, Minnesota, and New York, but only if the current bill in New York is not passed by the end of this year. The New York Assembly is in session until the end of the year, as is the District of Columbia.

Members in the above states/District of Columbia can directly contact the following State Liaisons.

Kansas
Denny Coyne grc4kansas@cox.net
Minnesota
David Hodnik ddhodnik@hotmail.com
New York
Bruce Searles searlesb@upstate.edu
Dist. of Columbia
Carla Maul maulccp@yahoo.com

Members can visit the committee page on the AmSECT homepage to find out who their State Liaison is. A member can also make application to become a State Liaison.

Organizing to Pursue Credentialing

Efforts are ongoing to organize perfusion state societies in preparation to pursue professional credentialing in the States of Arizona, Colorado, and Virginia. Members can contact the following State Liaisons for more information.

Arizona
James Ferguson fergy2ccp@q.com
Colorado
Mark Lucus mlucas56@hotmail.com
Virginia
David Fitzgerald david.fitzgerald@inova.org
Virginia members can also contact
Zack Beckman bezackman@gmail.com
Mike Audette boyd888@gmail.com
Manny Alam manny259@gmail.com

State Regulation

In August the AmSECT Government Relations Committee filed official comments regarding proposed revisions to the licensing Rules and Regulations for Perfusionists in Arkansas. Among other changes, the proposed revisions in Section Licensure, (C) Renewal link ABCP certification to renewal, or the filing of similar documented standards related to clinical activity to renew a license. The clinical activity standard could result in the suspension or revocation of a license due to circumstances beyond the control of a perfusionist. Personal illness or injury could preclude meeting the clinical activity requirement. The clinical activity report is discriminatory against women who may have a difficult pregnancy and/or child care needs or concerns. The Arkansas Department of Health is scheduled to hold an open public hearing on September 22, 2011 on the proposed changes. The comment is downloadable from the webpage.

MCS ECLS Position Statement

The Mechanical Circulatory Support Committee has released a position statement of the Society on perfusionists being the best trained and qualified to participate in the use of portable extracorporeal cardiopulmonary life support (ECLS) devices. The statement will be published in AmSECT Today and distributed to certain device manufacturers. In different parts of the country, newer generations of portable ECLS devices are being marketed. The introduction of percutaneous mechanical circulatory support devices to cardiac cath labs, without consultation or inclusion of perfusion staff on who should be used to operate devices has and is occurring.

As part of the GRCs State Liaison recruitment project for states needing Liaisons, the committee sent the position statement individually to 587 members in 18 states. One purpose of the statement is to open dialogue with manufacturers and their sales representatives. In the government relations arena, the statement, in licensed perfusionist states provides support for a direct perfusionist role based on the state recognized scope of practice. A licensing law does not bind manufacturers, but hospitals are bound as regards to deliberations on who should operate ECLS devices, with other licensed professions.

The GRC Webpage

The committee has been involved with and will continue making changes, new additions, and revisions to the materials available to AmSECT members on the GRC webpage. Here is what is available and will be available in the near future.

- Committee Members And Regions
- State Liaisons
  - Perfusion State Society Links
  - Documents To Create A State Society
- Perfusion State Legal Credentialing Status
  - Perfusion Licensure Acts Links
  - State Perfusion Regulatory Board Links
- Resources
  - State Liaison Job Description & Application
  - Finding and Managing a Lobbyist
  - Model State Licensing Legislation
  - Model State Licensing Rules & Regulations
  - Survival Kit for New State Liaisons
  - Educational Materials
    - State Legal Credentialing of Perfusionists
    - Guide To State Licensure
    - Guide to Lobbying *(Being Updated)*
  - Creating A State Perfusion Society
    - Sample Bylaws
    - Society Member Application
    - Bylaws Q&A
    - Society Leadership Nomination
    - Sample Organization Letters
  - Federal Government Agency Links
- State Legislation
  - State Legislative Web Sites *(Links To be Added)*
  - State Legislative Session Dates
- CV Device News *(To Be Added)*
  - FDA CV device notices/recalls