



GR News

Issue 2012:2

Quarterly Update On Perfusion Practice State And Federal Legislation and Regulations

What the Medicare “Doc Fix” Means

Perfusionists may have heard their surgeons refer to the “Doc Fix”. The extension of the Social Security payroll tax cut earlier this year included a Medicare doctor payment fix for this year. Physicians want to repeal the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) method now used to control the cost of all Medicare physician services. The SGR gives Congress the authority to suspend yearly decreases in payments, which has been done regularly.

For 2011 the delayed reductions increased to a total of -27% percent. The 2012 reduction is estimated at a -30% rate. In budgetary terms, the “pay-for” for the doc fix is future reduction in Medicare hospital DRG payments.

In the next 7 years, Medicare payments to hospitals will be reduced by \$1 billion per year. This is in addition to previous hospital payment reductions. For the foreseeable future, the “doc fix” means continued Medicare reductions in hospital surgical procedure DRG payments. This does not bode well for hospital-employed perfusionists and contract companies. Surgical group employed perfusionists, they may breathe a bit easier for now. The decreases will effect CV departmental budgeting and staff compensation.

In 2013, the medical device excise tax included in the Affordable Care Act, “Obamacare” is imposed. Hospitals already have complained to the IRS about device manufacturers passing this 2.3 percent tax increase through to hospitals in higher device prices.

2012 State Credentialing News

District of Columbia

Perfusionist licensing is being held up in the Mayor’s office. For information contact Carla Maul maulccp@yahoo.com or AmSECT DGR, Lee Bechtel, BAlobby@verison.net.

Kansas

SB 5 – Perfusionist Licensing – The bill was again held up by the Chair of the House Committee having passed the Senate 38-0 for the third time and died when the legislature adjourned. Perfusionists should contact Denny Coyne grc4kansas@cox.net and Kelly Hedlund khedlund@ruraltel.net on how they can help next year.

New York

Perfusion licensing - SB 4640 and AB 4153. The Senate bill passed the full Senate last year but died in the Assembly Committee, which referred it back to the Senate Higher Education Committee. SB 4640 has passed out of the committees and reported for a third reading and final passage in the Senate. As of May 31, AB 4153 remains pending before the Assembly Committee. If issues can be resolved, passage is expected. AmSECT members should contact Bruce Searles, SUNY, at searlesb@upstate.edu for updated information. The legislature is in session until the end of the year.

States Organizing to Pursue Credentialing

David Fitzgerald and Mike Brown (*pictured above*) represented the Virginia Perfusion Society in testifying before the Virginia Board of Health Professions on May 8th. The “study phase” approval will be given on the Society Licensing Application. It is expected the full Board will give approval to licensing perfusionists later this year,



David Fitzgerald, AmSECT and Virginia Perfusion Society President, left, Mike Brown, VPS Board Member, right, testify before the Virginia Board of Health Professions on May 8, 2012

setting the stage for introduction of a bill in 2013. Efforts are underway to build VPS membership. AmSECT members should visit the VPS webpage at <http://vaperefusion.org> for the latest information.

State organizing to pursue legal credentialing is also underway in Arizona, Colorado, and Michigan.

Colorado perfusionists are asked to contact Mark Lucas, mlucas56@hotmail.com, Ron Richards at, ronrccp@aol.com, or Tim Reynolds, amsectzone1@comcast.net.

GRC Meeting With Michigan Perfusionists

The Michigan State Perfusion Society will be meeting on August 4th and recently created a licensure committee, charged with gathering procedural and general information concerning the licensure process. GRC Member Jim Reagor is scheduled to speak on the licensing process and experiences.

GRC Meeting With Arizona Perfusionists

The Government Relations Committee is scheduled to meet with Arizona perfusionists on September 8th in the Phoenix area. The location and times are yet to be determined. There is no cost to attend and NO CEUs attached with attending the meeting. Please contact James Ferguson fergy2ccp@q.com or Donald Wilson wilson.donald@mayo.edu to reserve your place.

Bills Effecting The Profession

Four perfusion practice bills have been enacted thus far this year – the Georgia, Oklahoma, and Tennessee perfusion licensure boards have been extended. A bill imposing civil and monetary fines, and imprisonment for practicing without a license in Oklahoma has been enacted.



Booklet contains timeline of 175 most significant developments in cardiovascular surgery and the perfusion profession from 1885 to 2011, selected by perfusion pioneers. The history of professional Certification from the first 100 persons in the US to 5,344 perfusionists worldwide, the progression of Oxygenators, and significant textbooks are three of components in the summary heritage of the profession. Visit the AmSECT Foundation webpage and give a bit back to receive this historical and educational document. Great pump room reading material.

Alaska

Medical Technologist Licensing, SB 166, would have presented point-of-care testing issues for perfusionists. The bill died when the legislature adjourned.

Minnesota

A Clinical Laboratory licensure bill, SB 1426 was pending before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services when the legislature adjourned.

Missouri

SB 679 and HB1371 – Identical bills that modify the laws of advanced practice

registered nurses and collaborative practice arrangements. The bills grant Advanced Practice Registered Nurses authority to practice respiratory care functions. The perfusion licensing law allows respiratory therapists to perform ECMO cases under the supervision of a perfusionist. The legislature adjourned on May 31st.

Nebraska

LB 892 exempts military personnel who have performed a licensed medical specialty at a level substantially equivalent to licensed perfusionists for two of the five years from other specified requirements to apply for a license. The bill died when the legislature adjourned.

South Carolina

HB 4611 - Medical Clinical Laboratory licensure bill. The legislature adjourned on June 7th.

Committee Members And State Liaisons

Visit the Government Relations Committee page to find out who a member's Committee member their and State Liaison are. AmSECT members can make application to become a State Liaison in States with a vacancy.