

Illinois Government Relations Committee Update
July 30, 2009

Over the past several months the Government Relations Committee and our Lobbyist have actively pursued modifications to the Illinois Perfusion Practice Act (IPPA).

The IPPA is scheduled to sunset in January 2010. Based on feedback from the membership, the GRC's strategic initiatives for the 2009 legislative session included:

1. Extend the timeline for maintaining the practice act.
2. Restructure the parameters related to new graduate perfusionist clinical activities.
3. Implement continuing education requirements for license renewal.
4. Link national certification to license renewal.

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation reviews all practice acts prior to their sunset. Throughout the process, The IDFPR provided significant input into revisions required to make the Perfusion Practice Act language more consistent with other Illinois Practice Acts.

The legislative process proved to be an interesting exercise. While we had very little opposition to our revisions, compromises were required. Ultimately, a majority of our revisions were accepted by all stakeholders and the Illinois Perfusion Practice Act successfully passed through the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Governor is expected to sign the Bill into law in the Fall. The features of the new Practice Act include:

- The Practice Act in its revised form has been extended to 2020.
- New graduates will continue to require supervision. A licensed perfusionist or a physician may provide the supervision required.
- Supervised new graduates may continue to engage in clinical activities requiring extracorporeal circulation for a total of 14 months post graduation from an accredited perfusion school. This time frame will allow adequate time for new graduates to qualify and complete the ABCP certification process and obtain an Illinois license.
- 30 hours of continuing education in a 2 year license cycle will be required for license renewal.
- The IDFPR required language changes to make our law consistent with other licensing laws. The language modifications did not affect our scope of practice. The modifications required by the IDFPR were related to communication with the IDFPR and the oversight/disciplinary processes regulated by the IDFPR.

National certification is not presently linked to license renewal. However, it continues to be a requirement for new Illinois licenses. The IDFPR has expressed a willingness to discuss the technicalities of linking national certification to license renewal in the upcoming year.

The Perfusion Practice Act is listed under HB 2440. Our practice act is amended to the Orthotics/Prosthetics Act which was also scheduled to sunset in 2010. Due to impending deadlines, the Senate elected to amend the language from our Bill (HB 2441) to HB 2440. The entire language can be viewed on the Illinois legislative website (www.ilga.gov).

Please note: The revised Perfusion Practice Act is not effective until the Governor signs it into law. The Illinois GRC will communicate confirmation with effective dates when the Governor has finalized the process. Until then, the original practice act remains in effect.

Questions can be submitted to the GRC via the information listed on the ISPS website. We also anticipate having a discussion forum at the upcoming ISPS meeting in October.