

# **MINUTES**

The Perfusionist Advisory Committee  
of the North Carolina Medical Board

November 4, 2025 Meeting  
(Hybrid Meeting)

**3127 Smoketree Court**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**

The November 4, 2025, meeting of the Perfusionist Advisory Committee was a hybrid meeting with some members attending in person and some attending virtually.

PAC members present: Julie E. Walker, CCP, LP (Chair), Jill Engel, DNP, ACNP, FNP, Melinda Couper, BS, CCP, LP, Michele M. Heath, LP, BS, CCP, Amanda B. Thompson, MHA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC, Elliott F. Williams, M.D.

PAC member(s) absent: Peg O'Connell, JD

A quorum was present.

NCMB staff members present: Bettina Roberts, Board Attorney, Beth Svendsgaard, Senior Paralegal, Becky Powers, Chief Licensing and Registration Officer, Sara Smith, Licensing Manager

### **Open Session**

Julie Walker, Chair, read the conflict-of-interest statement and thanked the members for their participation in the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the May 5, 2025, meeting were reviewed by the PAC members.

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the PAC minutes of the May 5, 2025, meeting.

**Committee Action:** Approve the minutes.

### **Perfusionist Licensure Discussion**

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Walker submitted questions for discussion regarding the perfusionist licensure process. Sara Smith, Licensing Manager, provided the following information: 1) On average, it takes 4 months to issue a perfusionist license. 2) The most time-consuming part of the process is obtaining the criminal background check from the SBI. This may take 8 weeks or longer. In certain circumstances, the Board may request for expedition. 3) The Board recently dispensed with the need for submission of references, which was slowing down the application process. 4) Applicants should submit the application and relevant paperwork in a timely manner. Submission of fingerprints should be done as soon as possible after the application is complete. This is stated on the website. 5) There is not an option for reciprocity or licenses that have lapsed to be processed faster – they are handled in the same manner as new licenses. 6) Regarding renewals, licensees must renew their licenses every 2 years. They receive email reminders to do so at 90, 60, and 30 days prior to the expiration of their license. If they allow their license to lapse, they must fill out a new application.

A question arose regarding provisional licensees and whether they must wait to receive the official document from the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) before they can request their full license. The answer provided by Sara Smith was, “yes.” Provisional licensees must fill out the application on the website, send a request in writing to switch the application type, and ask ABCP to send the official document to the Board.

**Committee Action:** Accept as Information.

## **Follow-up Discussion of the Perfusion Scope of Practice/Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP)**

A discussion was continued from the May 2025 meeting regarding perfusionists' scope of practice in reference to Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) and establishment of an official Position Statement by the NCMB PAC. Ms. Walker provided a summary of NRP. NRP involves using a smaller version of the heart-lung machine to optimize organs after a patient has died from a circulatory death. The organs are procured and put on a preservation solution to be taken to the recipient.

In May, the committee discussed the ABCP's letter of March 25, 2025, concerning reports that Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) are allowing individuals who are not certified clinical perfusionists or licensed perfusionists to appear at institutions for organ procurement.

Marcus Jimison, Deputy General Counsel, prepared a memo for the PAC which was attached to the agenda and was reviewed during the meeting. Mr. Jimison posited questions for the PAC as enumerated in his memo and recommended that the PAC gather more data regarding NRP and defer further discussion until after the additional data is gathered.

Ms. Engel noted hearing anecdotally that non-perfusionists are performing NRP. She stated, however, it may be difficult to collect more data on the reality of this unless OPOs are willing to disclose that they are using non-perfusionists.

Ms. Couper agreed with Ms. Engel's statements. She stated that at Atrium, the OPOs are asking to use Atrium's equipment for NRP and have been told "no," hence no NRP has been performed at Atrium to-date.

Dr. Williams asked if the perfusionists on the committee have been asked to staff NRP-involved work and have been placed on call to do at their hospitals. Ms. Heath indicated that she has not been asked by her hospital but has been approached by OPOs for "moonlighting" opportunities to perform NRP.

Ms. Engel explained that when NRP has been performed at Duke, a company like Honor Bridge comes in and brings their own equipment and a person they claim is a perfusionist. Duke perfusion staff are not being asked to be on call for performance of NRP. A Business Associate Agreement (BAA) is in place between the hospital and the OPO.

**Motion:** Table the discussion about establishing a Position Statement until such time as more information can be gathered.

**Committee Action:** Table the discussion about establishing a Position Statement until such time as more information can be gathered.

### **Open Committee Position**

Dr. Williams' position on the PAC was up at the end of October 2025. The PAC is looking for a physician to fill Dr. Williams' position. Dr. Williams mentioned a cardiac anesthesiologist that recently joined his practice. He will mention the position to him and ask him to contact the Board if interested in serving.

**Committee Action:** Accept as Information.

### **Legislative Changes Regarding Application and Renewal Fees**

Ms. Walker discussed proposed legislation to increase fees for North Carolina licenses. Originally perfusionists were written into the proposed change, but recently they were not included. Prior to the PAC meeting, Mr. Jimison shared with Ms. Walke that the NCMB is operating at a deficit and may increase its fees. When the perfusionists' fees were written into the proposed legislation, the increase was \$50, so the fee would be \$400 every 2 years.

Ms. Walker will email the links to the legislative changes to the PAC.

**Committee Action:** Accept as Information.

### **Licenses Issued**

Beth Svendsgaard updated the committee on new LP and PLP licenses issued since the last committee meeting. Ten licenses were issued.

**Committee Action:** Accept as Information.

### **Closed Session**

No Closed Session was held.

The next PAC committee meeting will be held virtually on May 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.