
Cardiac Care, Perfusion, Dialysis, and Respiratory Care Practitioners

There are many medical practitioners who work in narrow specialties. Perfusionists operate machines that circulate blood or breathing equipment during surgeries. They may be certified to perform bloodwork or other functions at the time of the surgery. Dialysis Technicians also operate equipment that circulates blood, but the patient is awake and the dialysis machine replicates the function of the kidneys. Respiratory Care Practitioners help to run diagnostic tests, screening, or operating equipment to determine the cause of breathing issues. There are Therapists and Technicians who work in the same field and may be separately licensed. These specialties require different preparation but they work closely with doctors and nurses and have technical expertise.

Common Qualifications

Most states require a specific training program or nationally recognized certification (or both) as part of their licensure requirements. Experience and credit hours are often clearly defined.

Examples of License Titles

These are commonly licensed occupations, particularly Respiratory Therapists/Practitioners. In the national occupational license database, there are 111 licenses that associated with one of these specialties, representing 48 states and territories. Most common are Respiratory Therapists, which are licensed in 47 states. Perfusionists or other Cardiac Care specialists are licensed in 19 states and Dialysis Technicians are licensed in 8 states.

Most common license titles:

Perfusionist
Respiratory Care Practitioner
Respiratory Care Professional
Respiratory Care Therapist

Outlier license title examples:

Cardiac Catheterization Certificate
Cardiovascular invasive specialist

Examples of License Boards

Typically licenses are issued by a Board with a specific Respiratory Care or Perfusion focus, but often rolled in with medical examiners or the state medical board.

Most common board titles:

Board of Respiratory Therapy
Board of Medical Examiners
State Committee for Perfusion

Outlier board title examples:

Division of Health Related Boards
Division of Consumer Affairs

ONET codes

Respiratory Therapists align well with the ONET code, but Respiratory Care Technicians may be in with Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians, which also covers Dialysis Technicians. There are a handful of other licenses that are also coded to Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians, but the majority are associated with these activities. Perfusionists fall under Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians.

29-1126.00 Respiratory Therapists

Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. Assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.

29-2031.00 Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians

Conduct tests on pulmonary or cardiovascular systems of patients for diagnostic, therapeutic, or research purposes. May conduct or assist in electrocardiograms, cardiac catheterizations, pulmonary functions, lung capacity, and similar tests.

29-2012.00 Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians

Perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. May work under the supervision of a medical technologist.

Related Occupations

There are many other medical assistants and technicians that may overlap in coding or work activities. Doctors and other specialists may also come up if their area of focus overlaps these occupations.

Associated Certifications

Certification for Competency in Cardiac Rhythm Device Therapy for the Allied Professional

Certification for Competency in Cardiac Electrophysiology for the Allied Professional

Certified Procurement Transplant Coordinator

Medical Laboratory Scientist

Adult Critical Care Specialty

Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician

ABVM Vascular Medicine Examination

ABVM Endovascular Medicine Examination

Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist

Certified Respiratory Therapist - Sleep Disorders Specialty

Certified Respiratory Therapist

Certified EKG Technician

Medical Laboratory Technician Generalist Certification
Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist
Vascular Access-Board Certified
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Certified Specialist
Qualification in Laboratory Safety (QLS)
Certified Clinical Transplant Coordinators
Certified Professional Collector Trainer
Certified Professional Collector
Clinical Research Assistant
Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician - Advanced
ECG Technician
Certified Hemodialysis Technician (CHT)
Certified Hemodialysis Technician (CHT)
Certified Rhythm Analysis Technician
Medical Laboratory Assistant
Medical Laboratory Technician
Certified Cardiac Rehabilitation Professional
EKG Technician
Vascular Sonography
Certified Cardiographic Technician
Certification in Clinical Applications in Perfusion
Perfusion Basic Science Examination
Medical Laboratory Technician
Nuclear Cardiology Technologist
Nuclear Cardiology Technologist
Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer - Fetal Echocardiography
Histotechnician
Specialist in Cytometry
EKG (Electrocardiography) Technician
Certificate of Added Qualification in Neonatal Pediatric Transport
Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialist
Pathologist Assistant
Registered Respiratory Therapist - Sleep Disorders Specialty
Associate - Infection Prevention and Control (a-PIC)
Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist
Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
Registered Vascular Specialist
Medical Laboratory Assistant
Certified Hyperbaric Technologist