

**AACP 2019 Paper Presentation**  
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**SAFETY RELATIVE TO STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CARDIOVASCULAR  
PERFUSIONIST**

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The purpose of this study is to determine whether or not there should be two certified clinical perfusionists (CCP) operating the heart-lung (HL) machine during cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) surveying inputs from current cardiovascular perfusionists. The goal is to set a gold standard for future staffing patterns in the field.

The methods that were used in this study included a survey sent out to current CCP and performed a comparative analysis of documented staffing standards in other high-stress career fields.

There is no previously published articles on perfusion staffing requirements and/or recommendations. However, there are numerous articles in the literature about other staffing standards in fields such as aviation and the military. Currently there is no standardization of staffing practice for perfusionists operating the HL machine on CPB.

Human error accounts for 45% of incidents according to a U.S. Survey taken in 2001, and 36% of incidences according to an Australian survey taken in 1997 (Perfusion.com). Identifying and establishing a standard guideline for safe staffing practices when on CPB should have significant impact on patient safety and minimizing human error.

Preliminary (N=680) results of the survey show that 65% of respondents currently work at institutions that have a one perfusionist per case staffing pattern, however 82% of participants indicated that they would prefer two perfusionists per case.

The preliminary results from the survey indicated the majority of respondents are in favor of having a staffing pattern that requires more than one cardiovascular perfusionist per case.