
Guidelines for EBCP awarded post-graduate credit points

INTRODUCTION

European cardiovascular perfusionists certified by the **European Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (EBCP)** have a professional obligation to demonstrate clinical competence and commitment to remain up to date with the rapid developments in perfusion technology. Public accountability in perfusion services starts with improved quality of perfusion training, is enhanced by thorough examination procedures, and is maintained with an ongoing re-certification programme. Accordingly, the primary awarded European Certificate for Cardiovascular Perfusion (ECCP) should be re-certified on a three year cycle based on routinely submitted information, which as routinely submitted information act as evidence of continued perfusion competence.

The EBCP awards re-certification credit points to perfusionists for attendance and/or active participation in a perfusion related congress, workshop, or seminar programme of post-graduate educational value. These points may be claimed by the perfusionist in submitted re-certification documentation.

Organisers of post-graduate activities may request that the EBCP Certification Sub-committee award points for their scheduled activities so that participating perfusionists may be informed of the EBCP re-certification credit award. These awards also apply to health care industry sponsored activities, which have great potential in improving patient care by enhancing cooperation between perfusionists, anaesthesiologists, surgeons, and the medical industry.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EBCP CERTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The EBCP Certification Sub-committee considers on behalf of the EBCP requests for credit awards based on applications or in individual mitigating circumstances.

The EBCP Certification Sub-committee:

- reviews formal education program agendas to determine if the programs qualify for credit within EBCP guidelines, and denies re-certification credits at its discretion.
- reviews applications by sponsors for EBCP re-certification credit awards, approves or denies the applications, and notifies each applicant of the disposition of the application in a timely manner.

Organisations receiving denials of credit awards may request reconsideration by the EBCP Certification Sub-committee via appeal to the EBCP Appeals Committee through the General Secretary.

BASIS FOR AN APPEAL

The basis of an appeal shall be: (1) alleged bias, injustice or factual error of sufficient magnitude to warrant a change in the EBCP's action; (2) conflict on hand of desired departure from the guidelines or policies and procedures of the EBCP; or (3) new information which was not available at the time of the action taken by the Certification Sub-committee on behalf of the EBCP. The requestor, not the EBCP, bears the burden of establishing by the preponderance of evidence that they are entitled to a granted appeal.

ADJUDICATION REACHED BY THE EBCP APPEALS COMMITTEE

The three levels of adjudication are:

- (1) denial -- the Appeals Committee upholds the action of the Certification Sub-committee;
- (2) approval -- the Appeals Committee reverses or alters the credit award of the Certification Sub-committee; or
- (3) deferral -- the Appeals Committee requests that an appeal be deferred to the full meeting of the Board pending appropriate addressing of issues.

After issues have been resolved and approved by the Board, an appeal of an action of the Certification Sub-committee will be heard. The decision of the Board will be binding.

RECOGNITION OF INDUSTRY-PROVIDED TRAINING AND POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITIES:

Industry providers may apply for EBCP credit awards for activities they have designed to train or orient perfusionists to new or established technology. Application requirements include submission of an EBCP application for postgraduate credit award, including the addendum for approval of credit awards for industry provided postgraduate activities and a detailed programme of the planned training activity. The EBCP will prospectively assess each activity regarding its educational content and relevance and award an appropriate number of credit awards. An administration fee of €150 will be levied on each application.

- Continuous recognition:

Normally, an EBCP credit award is granted for a single activity. Industry providers who offer training activities on a regular basis may apply for a continuous recognition that may be granted for a specified period of time after assessment of the provider's quality and programme structure. Once a credit award is made, the provider is then free to claim the award for future training sessions so long as the structure and content of the programme remains unchanged. Any change in the programme will require re-application. An administration fee of €150/yr. will be levied on continuously recognised credit awards.

Credit awards are made on the basis of a provider's demonstrated ability to plan and implement a training session or postgraduate programme in accordance with established criteria. The assessment of the provider's performance and of its compliance to the quality criteria will take place at regular intervals through a questionnaire sent to participants. If the provider fails in this assessment, recommendations for improvement will be made or the approval may be withdrawn.

Credit awards for industry provided training sessions or postgraduate programmes would range between 1 and 4 points. The following scenarios are examples of possible credit awards situations:

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| 1) In-house training for product use for a perfusionist(s). | 1 Pt. |
| 2) In-house training for product use for a specific group of perfusionists, accompanied by additional theory instruction and clinical simulation. | 2 Pts. |
| 3) Training session or programme available to perfusionists from a specific country or region for instruction and application of equipment and techniques, accompanied by theory instruction, non-industry research reports and/or clinical simulation. | 3 Pts |
| 4) Training or programmes available to perfusionists from a specific country or region for instruction and application of equipment and techniques, accompanied by theory instruction, non-industry research reports, clinical simulation. A final evaluation of participants' understanding is made at the end. | 4 Pts |

Claims made by perfusionists for re-certification credits from industry provided sessions which have not been reviewed by the EBCP will result in no more than 1 point being awarded for these activities, regardless of content.