**Perfusionist**

**What does a Perfusionist do?**
- Perfusionists check and operate circulation equipment, such as the heart-lung machine, during any surgical operation involving support or replacement of the circulatory system.
- They administer some types of anesthesia and medications, as well as constant monitoring of the patients vital signs during the procedure.
- Perfusionists are prepared to respond quickly and appropriately to instructions from the surgeon or anesthesiologist.

**What kind of Education would I need?**
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Perfusionist programs can last 1 to 4 years, depending on the program objectives and the student’s qualifications
- The American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion requires continued education and at least 40 perfusion cases per year in order to renew certification

**Where would I work?**
- Hospitals
- Surgical centers

**Job Outlook?**
New procedures for various types of heart diseases, defects, and disorders are greatly increasing the need for qualified Perfusionist.

**Site:**

**Salary?**
A Perfusionist can earn an average of $88,136 per year.

Visit healthcareers.sd.gov to explore South Dakota Educational Opportunities in this field.

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