

Article 10

Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists

Section 40-47-1510. This article may be cited as the 'South Carolina Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist Act'.

Section 40-47-1520. As used in this article:

- (1) 'Cardiologist' means a physician who has successfully completed an approved cardiology training program including, but not limited to, a program approved by the Accreditation Committee on Graduate Medical Education, or its equivalent or successor.
- (2) 'Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist' means a cardiovascular invasive specialist who is currently registered by Cardiovascular Credentialing International, has graduated from an accredited program of Cardiovascular Invasive Technology and who working under the direct supervision of a cardiologist performs procedures on patients resulting in accurate diagnosis and/or optimal treatment of congenital or acquired heart disease.
- (3) 'Supervising cardiologist' means a South Carolina licensed physician currently possessing an active, unrestricted license to practice medicine in South Carolina who practices in the medical specialty of cardiology and has successfully completed a residency in cardiology, approved by the Accreditation Committee on Graduate Medical Education, or its equivalent or successor.
- (4) 'Supervision' means medically directing and accepting responsibility for the cardiac services rendered by a registered cardiovascular invasive specialist in a manner provided for in law and the adopted protocol of the licensed facility. The supervising cardiologist must be in the facility and in the operative area such that he can be immediately available to participate directly in the care of the patient with whom the invasive cardiovascular specialist and the cardiologist are jointly involved.

Section 40-47-1530. A person may not willfully practice or offer to practice as a cardiovascular invasive specialist unless that person is registered by the department. A person who uses the title cardiovascular specialist in any advertisement, business card or letterhead, or billing document or who makes another verbal or written communication indicating that the person is a cardiovascular specialist or who acquiesces in that representation violates this section.

Section 40-47-1540. To be registered by the department as a cardiovascular invasive specialist, a person must:

- (1) apply in writing to the department on a form available from the department;
- (2) successfully complete an approved cardiology training program including, but not limited to, a program approved by the Accreditation Committee of Graduate Medical Education, or its equivalent or successor approved by the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners;

- (3) provide satisfactory evidence of current registration with Cardiovascular Credentialing International;
- (4) provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant's practice protocol is in place, signed by each supervising cardiologist and by an appropriate representative of each licensed facility where practice is anticipated;
- (5) pay a fee established by the department.

Section 40-47-1550.

- (A) Registration by the department as a cardiovascular invasive specialist must be renewed every two years. To renew a registration, a person shall:
 - (1) submit a complete application in writing;
 - (2) demonstrate continued competency including current registration with Cardiovascular Credentialing International and other requirements as provided by this article or regulation;
 - (3) pay a fee established by the department.
- (B) A registration by the department as a cardiovascular invasive specialist automatically lapses if the registered person fails to make a timely and complete application for renewal or if the registered person fails to maintain current registration with Cardiovascular Credentialing International or another organization approved by the board.

Section 40-47-1560.

(A) Cardiovascular invasive specialists may perform medical tasks and services within the framework of a facility's written practice protocol developed for the cardiovascular invasive specialist. Within this practice protocol the registered cardiovascular invasive specialist, under the supervision of a

cardiologist may engage in these functions and duties:

- (1) perform baseline patient assessment;
- (2) evaluate patient response to diagnostic or interventional maneuvers and medications during cardiac catheterization laboratory procedures;
- (3) provide patient care and drug administration commonly used in the cardiac catheterization laboratory under the direction of a qualified physician and subject to the oversight of the facility;
- (4) act as the first assistant during diagnostic and therapeutic catheterization procedures; and
- (5) assist in advanced cardiac life support procedures.

- (B) A cardiovascular invasive specialist shall practice only under the supervision of a physician who is actively and directly engaged in the clinical practice of medicine as a cardiologist.
- (C) A cardiovascular invasive specialist practicing at all sites shall practice pursuant to written scope of the facility's practice protocols signed by all supervising cardiologists and the cardiovascular invasive specialists. Copies of the protocols must be on file at all practice sites. The protocols shall include at a minimum the:
 - (1) name, license number, and practice addresses of the supervising cardiologists;
 - (2) name and practice address of the cardiovascular invasive specialists;
 - (3) date the protocol was developed and dates it was reviewed or amended;
 - (4) situations that require direct evaluation by or immediate referral to a cardiologist.

Section 40-47-1570.

The department is responsible for all administrative activities of the registration program. The department shall employ and supervise personnel necessary to effectuate the provision of this article and shall establish fees sufficient, but not excessive, to cover expenses including direct and indirect costs to the State for the operations of this registration program. Fees must be adjusted as required by Title 40, Chapter 1.

(B) The department shall maintain a registry of all applications for registration and of all persons holding registration and shall make the roster of registered cardiovascular invasive specialists available on the department web site.

(C) The Board of Medical Examiners may promulgate regulations as necessary to effectuate this chapter.

Section 40-47-1580.

If the department has reason to believe that a person registered pursuant to this article has become unfit to practice as a registered cardiovascular invasive specialist or if a complaint is filed with the department charging the registered person with the violation of a provision of this article or if a complaint is filed with the department alleging that an unregistered person is fraudulently holding himself or herself out as registered, the department shall institute an investigation in accordance with the procedures of Chapter 40, Title 1 and this article.

Section 40-47-1590.

(A) If, after investigation, it appears that the person registered pursuant to this article has become unfit to practice or has violated this article, the department shall

file a petition with the Administrative Law Judge Division, stating the facts and the particular statutes and regulations at issue.

(B) The Administrative Law Judge Division, after opportunity for hearing, may order that the registration be revoked, suspended, or otherwise disciplined in accordance with Section 40-1-120 on the grounds that the registrant:

(1) used a false, fraudulent, or forged statement or document or committed a fraudulent, deceitful, or dishonest act or omitted a material fact in obtaining registration pursuant to this article;

(2) has had an authorization to practice a regulated profession or occupation in another state or jurisdiction canceled, revoked, or suspended, or has otherwise been disciplined by another jurisdiction;

(3) has lost or let lapse an underlying credential that served as the basis of registration;

(4) has intentionally used a false or fraudulent statement in a document connected with the practice of a registered cardiovascular invasive specialist;

(5) has obtained fees or assisted in obtaining fees under fraudulent circumstances; or

(6) has sustained a physical or mental disability or uses alcohol or drugs to such a degree as to render further practice as a registered cardiovascular invasive specialist dangerous to the public.

Section 40-47-1600.

(A) A cardiovascular invasive specialist may not:

(1) perform a task which has not been listed and approved on the scope of the practice protocol currently on file with the facility;

(2) prescribe drugs, medications, or devices of any kind.

(B) A cardiovascular invasive specialist must clearly identify himself or herself to ensure that the cardiovascular invasive specialist is not mistaken or misrepresented as a physician. A cardiovascular invasive specialist must wear a clearly legible identification badge or other adornment at least one inch by three inches in size bearing the cardiovascular invasive specialist's name and the words 'Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist'. Patients in facilities utilizing cardiovascular invasive specialists must be informed when a cardiovascular invasive specialist will be involved in their cardiac care.

Section 40-47-1610.

(A) The Administrative Law Judge Division, after opportunity for hearing, may order injunctive relief against a person who, without possessing a valid certificate pursuant

to this article, uses the title or term registered cardiovascular invasive specialist. For each violation the administrative law judge may impose a fine of no more than ten thousand dollars.

- (B) A person who is not registered as required by this article may not bring an action either at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of a contract for providing services as a registered cardiovascular invasive specialist.

Section 40-47-1620. The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation shall promulgate regulations necessary to ensure implementation of the provisions of this article."