



NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

1100 Navaho Drive, Suite 242

Raleigh, NC 27609

Position Statement Electrocardiograph Technicians

This Position Statement from the Respiratory Care Board will interpret the provisions of GS 90-648 (2) & (11) as it relates to the provision of Electrocardiography (ECG) and whether ECG Technicians providing ECG's are required by the Respiratory Care Practice Act to be licensed by the Board.

In developing this Position Statement, The Board has relied on some general information provided about the nature and scope of these activities. The Board has assumed that the only functions performed by these ECG Technicians would be the mechanical connection of the standard 12-lead ECG equipment, and basic monitoring of the equipment to ensure that it functions properly during the test. The Board also has assumed that none of these persons would engage in any interpretation of the results shown on the ECG equipment, either during or after the test; or any treatment activities for a patient, except as needed to respond to an emergency, and that none of the ECG Technicians would ever represent themselves to be a Respiratory Care Practitioner. Finally, we also have assumed that these individuals only perform ECG tests, and that no other activity in the definition of the practice of respiratory care would be involved.

GS 90-648 (13) defines "Support activities" as procedures that do not require formal academic training, including the delivery, setup, and maintenance of apparatus. The term also includes giving instructions on the use, fitting, and application of apparatus, but does not include therapeutic evaluation and assessment.

The Board finds that the activities of ECG Technicians as they are described in this Position Statement are essentially mechanical in nature, involving just the set-up of ECG equipment. These activities do not require formal training, and do not involve the application of evaluation and assessment skills. In light of the very limited scope of these activities and the fact that no evaluation, assessment or therapeutic intervention is involved, the Board has concluded that ECG technicians, who function within the parameters described, are performing support activities, as defined in the statute.

Therefore, the Board finds that the activities of ECG Technicians who only provide ECG tests and who provide these tests under the direct supervision of a either a licensed Physician, a licensed Registered Nurse, a licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner or an individual certified by Cardiovascular Credentialing International need not be licensed by the Board. The Board emphasizes that it is adopting this Position Statement based on the facts expressed; and the Board reserves the right to rescind or modify this Position Statement based on the receipt of additional pertinent information in the future.

Adopted by the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board July 3, 2003