

NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD
POSITION STATEMENT
RESPIRATORY CARE MANAGEMENT

The Manager of Respiratory Care Services is responsible for the management and supervisory functions of Respiratory Care Services and is responsible for ensuring that respiratory care services are provided in accordance with all applicable laws and rules, the facility's accrediting agency, the facility's policies and procedures, and the facility's quality assurance program. The individual responsible for direct management is responsible for day to day operations related to patient care issues which include, but not limited to:

1. Manages and directs clinical respiratory care services performed by departmental personnel in accordance with departmental and hospital personnel policies and procedures.
2. Directs and/or provides clinical training and orientation to respiratory care staff regarding departmental policies, procedures, and standards of practice.
3. Evaluates the clinical performance of respiratory care staff; and recommends promotions, reassignments or other status changes, as appropriate.
4. Participates in quality improvement activities. Reviews and evaluates respiratory care techniques to improve the delivery of respiratory care services.
5. Reviews respiratory care documentation, such as, patient charges and documentation of respiratory therapeutics in accordance with facility accreditation requirements.
6. Evaluates the need for additional equipment and makes recommendations concerning the acquisition of new equipment.
7. Directs the clinical orientation and clinical training needs of the respiratory care staff.
8. Determines staffing needs and schedules assigned staff accordingly.
9. In a facility that requires a Medical Director, advises the Medical Director of pertinent changes that may affect operations, such as, staffing patterns, special patient needs, physician requests, equipment utilization and availability.
10. Directs and participates in regularly scheduled staff meetings.
11. Assumes responsibility for the department's involvement in the facility safety program.

Conclusion

Individuals supervising or managing inpatient care environments must meet the same rigorous standards of professional competency to ensure safe delivery of care. Respiratory Care Services are such that the public is at risk of injury, and health care institutions are at risk of liability when respiratory therapy is provided by inadequately educated and unqualified health care providers rather than by practitioners appropriately educated in the specialty of Respiratory Care.

Direct clinical management, supervision, teaching, and evaluation of respiratory care practitioners (RCP's) require that only licensed RCP's provide such services. RCP's are required: to meet minimal educational and testing standards, to obtain and maintain credentials, to maintain current competency levels, and to adhere to accreditation standards. Managers of Respiratory Care Services, who are not licensed RCP's, would not fall under any exemption outlined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-664 (1) nor would they meet the defined exemption in 21 NCAC 61 .0202 (4) for the direct management of services provided by other licensed RCP's. In addition, they would not meet the professional guidelines for accreditation standards set forth by the American Association for Respiratory Care and the facility's accrediting agency. Therefore, the individuals that perform direct clinical management and supervision of RCP's must be licensed RCP's pursuant to Article 38 of the NC General Statutes.

Approved by the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board July 8, 2010