

NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD
POSITION STATEMENT
RESPIRATORY CARE PROTOCOLS

Respiratory care protocols are used to initiate or modify a patient's care plan following a pre-determined and structured set of physician's orders. They include instructions or interventions, in which the Respiratory Care Practitioner is allowed to initiate, discontinue, refine, transition, or restart therapy as the patient's medical condition dictates. Protocols are generally written in algorithmic form, are based on scientific evidence, and include guidelines and options at decision points with clearly stated outcome objectives.

Current medical literature supports the use of respiratory care protocols as an effective tool for producing improved patient outcomes and appropriate allocation of services. Based on their demonstrated efficacy, it is the position of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board that institution-approved protocols should be used by Respiratory Care Practitioners as a standard of care for providing respiratory care services under qualified medical direction.

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