



Oregon Health Licensing Agency
Respiratory Therapist Licensing Board
Committee Meeting

Date: March 13, 2009

Committee Members: Richard Larson, Chair
Michael Nurre, Vice-chair

Staff: Trampus Schuck, Board Specialist
Samantha Patnode, Examination Analyst
Kraig Bohot, Public Information Officer

Public Attendees: Denise Anderson, Respiratory Therapist

The Respiratory Therapist Licensing Board, Practice Standards Committee met on March 13, 2009, at 9 am at the Oregon Health Licensing Agency, Rhoades Conference Room, 700 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon, to discuss and review the advanced practices provided by respiratory therapists under the direction of a medical director or physician within a hospital, medical transport unit, or medical clinic.

On February 13, 2008, Denise Anderson, Respiratory Therapist, provided comment to the board. Anderson spoke about transport teams, such as ambulatory transports, as well as advanced specialty procedures being provided by respiratory therapists. Anderson stated these procedures may be outside their scope of practice and requested the board review and possibly make a position statement regarding these procedures. The board deferred the discussion to the committee for further review.

The committee was presented with a draft position statement for review. The statement provided clarification regarding specific locations designated for providing respiratory care. Services included those denoted in ORS 680.805 (6), pre-hospital and intra-hospital transport environments, and ground/air ambulances. Committee members concurred the additional locations were appropriate for providing respiratory care.

The position statement referenced several advanced specialty procedures. These procedures include, but are not limited, to IV insertion, rapid sequence intubation, needle cricothyrotomies, surgical airways, needle chest decompression, chest tube placement, external counter pulsation, internal/external pacing, interosseous placement, and, invasive line placement. Richard Larson stated that the advanced procedures are provided in various settings by respiratory therapists, who have appropriate training, and are under the standing order/prescription of a qualified medical director. Committee members voiced concern regarding encroachment on other scopes of practice. It was noted that The Respiratory Therapist Licensing Board may not have the statutory authority to grant therapists approval to provide advanced services with or without the training and appropriate supervision. Therapist noted that when therapists are providing services outside their scope of practice they are not operating as a therapist, but rather, at the direction of a qualified medical director.

The committee recommended changes to the position statement including structure, language, and reference to organizations that accredit transport teams (i.e. Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems). Staff stated they would solicit feedback from other licensing boards. The revised position will be e-mailed to committee members then approved at the next board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 am.

Prepared by: Trampus Schuck, Board Specialist