

# Administration of the Oregon OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire and Clearance for Respirator Fit Testing

## Statement of Purpose

To provide clear guidance for nurses who engage in administration of the *Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Oregon OSHA) Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire* and who may provide clearance for respirator fit testing.

## Background Information

Oregon OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard, 1910.134, permits the "physician or other licensed health care professional" (PLHCP) to administer the "medical questionnaire" or to conduct the "medical examination" as long as it is within the scope of the PLHCP's license. The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) has been asked to clarify scope of practice issues for nurses regarding administration of this questionnaire and clearance for respirator fit testing.

## Scope of Practice Statement

The Oregon State Board of Nursing affirms the following regarding scope of practice:

Nurses who may administer *Oregon OSHA's Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire*:

1. Nurse Practitioner (NP)
2. Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
3. Registered Nurse (RN)

Nurses who may clear workers for respirator fit testing if there are **no** positive responses on the questionnaire:

1. NP
2. CNS
3. RN

Nurses who may clear workers for respirator fit testing if there **are** positive responses on the questionnaire:

1. NP - With the appropriate knowledge base, congruent with his/her individual scope and specialty.
2. CNS - With the appropriate knowledge base, congruent with his/her individual scope and specialty.
3. RN – If there are positive responses to **questions 1- 8** (Appendix C. Part A., Section 2) of the questionnaire, and when there is sufficient information to reach a reasonable and prudent nursing judgment related to the worker's ability to safely use a respirator without health limitations, RNs may clear workers for respirator fit testing **for filtering face piece respirators (such as the N-95) only**. If there is not sufficient information to reach the necessary judgment of the worker's ability to safely use a respirator without limitations, the worker must be referred to a licensed independent practitioner (LIP) for further evaluation. The RN may not delegate questionnaire evaluation to unlicensed assistive personnel.

It is **not** within the LPN scope of practice to evaluate *Oregon OSHA's Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire* or to clear workers for respirator fit testing.

### Knowledge and Education Base

The nurse who engages in administration and evaluation of *Oregon OSHA's Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire* must have knowledge of, training in and clinical competence in the following:

1. Current knowledge in physiological and psychological systems as they relate to the workers' ability to safely wear a respirator.
2. Knowledge of types of respirators and the effects of wearing them.
3. Knowledge of Oregon OSHA regulations and safety standards applicable to respirator use.

### Definitions

1. **"Licensed Independent Practitioner."** An individual permitted by Oregon law to independently make a medical diagnosis, and provide treatment and services that are within that individual's scope of practice.

### References

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*The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) is authorized by Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 678 to exercise general supervision over the practice of nursing in Oregon to include regulation of nursing licensure, education and practice in order to assure that the citizens of Oregon receive safe and effective care.*

*The OSBN further interprets statute and rule and issues opinions in the form of Board Policies, Policy Guidelines and Position Statements. Although they do not have the force and effect of law, these opinions are advisory in nature and issued as guidelines for safe nursing practice.*