



Issue Response

OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

Respiratory Therapy

February 8, 2011

On August 25, 2010, the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) received questions regarding arterial line insertion for blood draws and blood pressure monitoring from Bill Morgan of Providence Hospital, Medford, Oregon.

Upon consideration and request by the Respiratory Therapist Licensing Board, OHLA consulted with its General Counsel at the Department of Justice and responded to the following questions:

Issue

May ORS 688.800 be interpreted to include, within the respiratory therapy scope of practice, arterial line insertion for blood draws and blood pressure monitoring?

Answer

It appears that if *arterial line insertion for blood draws and blood pressure monitoring* are being done by a respiratory therapist for diagnostic or testing techniques related to pulmonary abnormalities, it is within the scope of practice of a respiratory therapist. Note: arterial line insertion done for diagnostic or testing techniques related to cardiac abnormalities is not within the scope of practice of a respiratory therapist (e.g., stress tests).

Important Note: OHLA does not provide personal legal advice to licensees or members of the public. The responses below are specific to only those questions asked. Even slight changes in the scope or content of the question may change the applicability of these responses in a different situation. Please consult your own attorney for legal advice regarding Oregon laws and administrative rules.