

State Board of Respiratory Care

consumer *brief*

THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE BOARD

Respiratory care is the health specialty involving the treatment, disease management, control, and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiac and pulmonary system. Respiratory care practitioners administer oxygen and other medical gases to patients and perform treatments and tests under the supervision of doctors.

The State Board of Respiratory Care was created by the provisions of the Respiratory Care Practitioner Act of 1991.

Visit the State Board of Respiratory Care's website by going to www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov and clicking on **Boards & Committees, Respiratory Care**. It is a great place to visit to learn more about the Board, its activities, its licensees, and both the laws that created the Board and the regulations implementing those laws.

In addition, you can go to the Licensee Information link on the Board's Web site and type in a licensee's name to make sure that his/her license is current and in good standing, and to see if any disciplinary action has ever been taken against that licensee. The Licensee Information link also allows you to type in the name of your town or a neighboring town to find a list of all of the licensed respiratory therapists who practice in that town.

Applicants to become a licensed respiratory care practitioner (also known as a "respiratory therapist") must have earned at least a high school diploma or its educational equivalent; completed a training program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) or its successor; and have achieved a passing grade on the National Board for Respiratory Care Entry Level Examination. If an applicant applies for licensure

more than three years after completion of the accredited training program, he/she must submit to the Board proof of completion of a respiratory care refresher course. After an applicant has received a license, he/she must complete 30 credit hours of approved continuing education (C.E.) during every two-year period of licensure (except for the first biennial period). The breakdown of these C.E. credits is as follows: at least one credit in infection control; at least one credit in patient safety/medical errors; at least one credit in ethics; at least 20 credits in other respiratory care clinical practices; and any remaining credits in any health-care related field.

HOW ARE COMPLAINTS RESOLVED

If you should ever encounter a problem with a respiratory care practitioner, under the Consumer Information link on the Web site you will find the Board's complaint form. It must be downloaded, filled out by hand, and then be mailed with photocopies of any relevant documents to the Board. Fee disputes are generally forwarded to the Division's Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit, which has a stellar record of resolving disputes concerning fees. All other complaints are placed on the Board's agenda. The consumer who filed the complaint will receive acknowledgement in writing within 14 days of the complaint being filed. The licensee is then given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Investigations by the Board may take up to two or three months.

973-504-6200 ■ 800-242-5846 (toll free within New Jersey)

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