



NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD
125 Edinburgh South Drive, Suite 100
Cary, NC 27511

October 27, 2014

Karen Bartles, RCP
Respiratory Care Department
Alamance Regional Medical Center
1240 Huffman Mill Rd.
Burlington, NC 27215

Dear Ms. Bartles,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in response to your letter of August 4, 2014 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules that relate to wound measuring, wound cleansing techniques and basic dressings when provided by Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's). Based on the information you furnished, the Board understands that wound measuring, wound cleansing techniques and basic dressings would be performed only in a licensed health care facility within a protocol ordered by a licensed physician.

The Respiratory Care Board discussed your request during its regular scheduled meeting held on October 9, 2014 and has determined that wound measuring, wound cleansing techniques and basic dressings is not within the scope of practice of the RCP. However, the Certified Hyperbaric Technologist (CHT) would be exempt under G.S. 90-664 (1) and rule 21 NCAC 61 .0202 which states:

"a person who is licensed by another North Carolina licensing board to carry on an occupation, who is acting within the recognized scope of practice for the license issued by that other board, or who otherwise is carrying out functions recognized as appropriate for the licensed person by that board; and any other person who is working under the supervision of such a licensed person, provided that the supervision of the other person also is recognized as being within the appropriate scope of practice or functions of the licensed person. With regard to other persons who are not licensed by a North Carolina licensing board, the Board shall consider whether there is evidence establishing that such persons meet the requirements of G. S. 90-664 (1)".

Based on the evidence received, the Board recognizes that wound measuring, wound cleansing techniques and basic dressings may fall within scope of practice for the CHT, thus meeting exemption outlined in G.S. 90-664 (1) and 21 NCAC 61 .0202. Furthermore, the RCP providing wound measuring, wound cleansing techniques and basic dressings would be required to meet the same exemption since these skills are not within the scope of practice for the RCP.

Please advise if you have any other questions about this issue.

Regards,

William L. Croft, PhD, RRT, RCP
Executive Director