



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

October 27, 2014

Terry Smith, RCP
Respiratory Care Department
Blue Ridge Hospital
125 Hospital Drive
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Dear Mr. Smith,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in response to your letter of August 11, 2014 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules that relate to the ordering of chlorhexidine gluconate oral rinses for VAP/VAE prevention by Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's). Based on the information you furnished, the Board understands that chlorhexidine gluconate oral rinses for VAP or VAE prevention 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 the ordering of chlorhexidine gluconate oral rinses for VAP/VAE prevention by RCP's is within the scope of practice of the RCP only when approved by a licensed physician within VAP or VAE protocols established by hospital policies.

To assure the quality and efficacy of the treatment, the facility where these treatments are performed must: 1) maintain written policies and guidelines approved by the facility, 2) maintain a specific protocol for the administration of calcium gluconate nebulizer treatments approved by the facility pharmacy director, and 3) require each RCP providing the treatments to have documented training and annual competency reviews in the procedure.

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

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Croft", followed by the text "PHD, RRT, RCP".

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