



NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

1100 Navaho Drive, Suite 242
Raleigh, NC 27609

January 9, 2014

Keri Erickson, RCP
Respiratory Care Department
WakeMed Brier Creek
8001 T.W. Alexander Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617

Dear Ms. Erickson,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in response to your letter of November 6, 2013 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules that relate to the performance of lidocaine nebulizer treatments by Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's). Based on the information you furnished, the Board understands that these lidocaine nebulizer treatments for the treatment of refractory cough would be performed only in a licensed health care facility and under the orders of a licensed physician.

The Respiratory Care Board discussed your request during its regular scheduled meeting held on January 9, 2014 and has determined performance of lidocaine nebulizer treatments by RCP's for the treatment of refractory cough which are performed under the order of a licensed physician is within the scope of practice of the RCP.

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 lidocaine nebulizer treatments, 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,

Floyd E. Boyer, RRT, RCP
Executive Director