



NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

1100 Navaho Drive, Suite 242
Raleigh, NC 27609

October 18, 2010

Terry Smith, RCP
Respiratory Care Department
Mission Health System
428 Biltmore Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801

Dear Mr. Smith,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in response to your letter of August 20, 2010 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules that relate to the performance of morphine nebulizer treatments by Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's). Based on the information you furnished, the Board understands that these morphine nebulizer treatments 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 October 14, 2010 and has determined performance of morphine nebulizer treatments by RCP's which are performed under the order of a licensed physician are 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, and 2) 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