



NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

1100 Navaho Drive, Suite 242
Raleigh, NC 27609

April 12, 2007

Kellie Hayworth, RCP
Clinical Educator
Respiratory Care Services
WakeMed
3000 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27610

Dear Ms. Hayworth,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in reference to your letter of February 19, 2007 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules as it relates to respiratory care practitioners suturing and securing arterial lines post insertion.

The Respiratory Care Board discussed your request during its regular scheduled meeting held on April 12, 2007 and approved the following interpretation of the Respiratory Care Practice Act and Board rules concerning your request:

The Board has determined the insertion of arterial lines and suturing of the arterial line post insertion to secure the arterial line is within the scope of practice of a respiratory care practitioner (RCP). The RCP must have documented training and annual documented competency reviews in the procedures. The facility or program where these procedures are performed must maintain policies and guidelines for performing these procedures, as it would for any procedures provided by the RCP's that it employs.

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

Regards,

Floyd E. Boyer, RRT, RCP
Executive Director

Cc: North Carolina Board of Nursing