



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

January 8, 2015

Joy Key, RN, BSN, CPHRM
Patient Safety Manager
Cornerstone Healthcare
1701 Westchester Drive, Suite 850,
High Point, NC 27262

Dear Ms. Key

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in reference to your letter of October 29, 2014 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules as it relates to respiratory care practitioners completing medication refill request for patients when following a physician approved *Prescription Refill Protocol* for Cornerstone Healthcare.

The Respiratory Care Board discussed your request during its regular scheduled meeting held on January 8, 2015 and approved the following interpretation of the Respiratory Care Practice Act and Board rules concerning your request:

The Board has determined the process your facility has in place is supported by the Respiratory Care Practice Act if the medication refills are made within the limits set by the facility approved Prescription Refill Protocol provided to the board. Any changes outside the approved protocol must first be approved and written by the patient's physician before medication refills can be provided by RCP's. Furthermore, the Board stipulates that Theophylline be taken off the automatic refill list given the narrow therapeutic index and potential for side effects.

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

Regards,

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