



NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

1100 Navaho Drive, Suite 242
Raleigh, NC 27609

July 19, 2012

Deserie Byrum, RCP
Lincare
2502 Lowell Road
Gastonia, NC 28056

Dear Ms. Byrum,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in response to your letter of March 27, 2012 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules that relate to the provision of blood thinner monitors by Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's). Based on the information you furnished, the Board understands that the blood thinner monitors would be provided under the order and supervision of a licensed physician.

The Respiratory Care Board discussed your request during its regular scheduled meeting held on July 19, 2012 and has determined that the provision of blood thinner monitors by RCP's which are performed under the order and supervision of a licensed physician are within the scope of practice of the RCP.

To assure the quality and efficacy of the testing, the facility providing the monitors must: 1) maintain written policies and guidelines, as it would for any procedures provided by the RCP's that it employs; 2) require each RCP providing the monitors to complete a documented training course provided by the facility which employs the RCP; 3) require each RCP to have a documented skills evaluation and documented annual competency reviews in the procedure; and (4) provide any management or instructions to the patient concerning blood thinner management under the direct order and supervision of the physician caring for the patient.

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

Regards,

Floyd E. Boyer, RRT, RCP
Executive Director