



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

October 8, 2015

Amber E. McVeigh, RRT-NPS, RCP
New Hanover Regional Medical Center
2131 S. 17th St.
Wilmington, NC 28401

Dear Ms. McVeigh,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in response to your email of September 4, 2015 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules that relate to the administering of lactated ringers and normal saline, as well as Dextrose 10% (D10) by Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs). You also requested clarification of whether RCPs could also verify medication calculations with a registered nurse prior to administration.

The Board determined in October of 2011 that PALS and ACLS medication delivery are within the scope of practice of respiratory care. Based on the information you furnished, the Board understands that the medication or fluid administration would be performed only in a health care facility and only under the order and supervision of a licensed physician. The Board also understands that the administration of lactated ringers and normal saline are procedures already included in the PALS/NRP certifications. The Board discussed your request during its regular scheduled meeting on October 8, 2015 and determined that the following procedures are within the scope of the practice of respiratory care:

- The administration of PALS and NRP medications and fluids, D10% for patients with documented hypoglycemia, and
- The verification with a registered nurse of mathematical calculations of drug dosages when performed under the order and supervision of a licensed physician.

To assure the quality and efficacy of the procedures, the facility where these procedures are performed must:

- 1) maintain written policies and guidelines for the procedures, as it would for any procedures provided by the RCP's that it employs;
- 2) limit the medications and fluids to those listed in the NRP or PALS guidelines and to the administration of D10%;
- 3) require each RCP providing the approved medications and fluids to complete a documented training course provided by the health care facility which employs the RCP; and



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

- 4) require each RCP to have a documented skills evaluation and documented annual competency reviews in the procedure which must include the mathematical calculations of drug dosages.

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

Regards,

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