



## NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

1100 Navaho Drive, Suite 242  
Raleigh, NC 27609

April 8, 2010

Judy Hilton, RCP  
Director  
Respiratory Care Services  
Valley Nursing and Rehab Center  
581 NC Hwy 16 South  
Taylorsville, NC 28681

Dear Ms. Hilton,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in reference to your letter of February 11, 2010 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules as it relates to respiratory care practitioners starting IV's and respiratory care practitioners removing sutures from a new tracheostomy when the sutures were not removed at the hospital where the procedure was performed.

The Respiratory Care Board discussed your request during its regular scheduled meeting held on April 8, 2010 and approved the following interpretation of the Respiratory Care Practice Act and Board Rules concerning your request:

*The Board has determined starting IV's is within the scope of practice of a respiratory care practitioner (RCP) for procedures related to the practice of respiratory care. The RCP must have documented training and annual documented competency reviews in the procedure. The facility where this procedure is performed must maintain facility approved policies and guidelines for performing this procedure, as it would for any procedures provided by the RCP's that it employs.*

*The Board has also determined removing sutures from a new tracheostomy, under the order of a physician, when the sutures were not removed at the hospital where the procedure was performed is within the scope of practice of a RCP. The RCP must have documented training and annual documented competency reviews in the procedure. The facility where this procedure is performed must maintain facility approved policies and guidelines for performing this procedure, 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