



NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

1100 Navaho Drive, Suite 242
Raleigh, NC 27609

October 18, 2010

Terry Smith, RCP
Respiratory Care Department
Mission Health System
428 Biltmore Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801

Dear Mr. Smith,

This letter is sent on behalf of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board in response to your letter of August 20, 2010 requesting the Board's interpretation of state statutes and rules that relate to the performance removal of chest tubes by Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's). Based in the information you furnished, the Board understands that these procedures would be performed in a licensed health care facility and under the orders of a licensed physician.

*The Respiratory Care Board discussed your request during its regular scheduled meeting held on October 14, 2010 and has determined that the removal of chest tubes by RCP's is **NOT** within the scope of practice of the RCP.*

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

Regards,

Floyd E. Boyer, RRT, RCP
Executive Director