

## **USED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE AARC'S CONTINUING RESPIRATORY CARE EDUCATION (CRCE) PROGRAM POLICIES**

### **Continuing Education Defined**

“Continuing Education” is defined as the variety of learning experiences meant to enhance the knowledge of the respiratory therapist enabling them to provide safe and effective respiratory care to patients. Continuing education may also be used to define learning experiences related to the education and management of respiratory therapists and respiratory therapy services, health promotion and disease management, patient safety, health care cost containment, healthcare law and ethics and emergency preparedness. Educational activities are planned, organized, efforts, either provider-directed or learner-directed and aimed at accomplishing educational objectives.

One CRCE contact hour is defined as 60 minutes of learning activity. In calculating learning time, time to complete testing and course evaluation is allowed. Examinations are required only for learner-directed (nontraditional) programs. The AARC makes the final determination of the number of contact hours awarded.

### **Traditional and Nontraditional Education Defined**

#### **Traditional or Live (Provider-Directed)**

A live or traditional course requires a provider-directed educational activity where the learner and provider to interact in real time. They need not be in the same place, but they must be able to communicate either verbally or in writing with each other during the time the learning activity is occurring. The provider determines the pace of the program and schedules the activity. Contact hour credit awarded is based on the time allocated for the exchange of information between the presenter and the learner. Examples of provider directed activities include, but are not limited to, live lecture educational sessions that are part of conventions, courses, seminars, workshops, lecture series, and distance learning activities such as webcasts, videoconferences and audio conferences in which the learner can interact with the provider. The accreditation fee varies depending on the number of contact hours requested. In traditional courses, each session may have its own content designation. A post-test is not required for provider-directed learning activities. The cost of reviewing and accrediting traditional programs is variable and depends on the number of hours for which it is approved. These courses are approved for one year. They may be repeated any time during their accreditation period by providing the required information and fees through the application process. These repeat programs will be instantly accredited upon application. Only traditional programs may allow partial credit to participants if requested by the course sponsor. This means that CRCE contact hours can be

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awarded for attending specific sessions within the entire program. It is incumbent upon the course sponsor to report only the sessions actually attended by each participant.

### **Nontraditional or Non-Live (Learner-Directed)**

A nontraditional learner-directed (independent study) is conducted by the learner at his or her own pace. The instructor does not interact with the learner in real time, **so it is not a live presentation**. The number of contact hours awarded is determined by the AARC and is based on the estimated average time required to complete the learning materials, tests and evaluations. The formats for non-traditional activities include, but are not limited to studies of web-based courses, archived webcasts, pod casts videotapes, audiotapes or monographs or the content of journals listed in Index Medicus. In contrast to traditional courses, only one content designation may be assigned to a nontraditional course. Satisfactory completion of a post-test is required to meet the requirements of all learner-directed courses. A fixed fee is charged to review and administer the program. In addition, there is a fee based on the length of the course to review the course learning materials. Nontraditional courses are approved for either one or two years.

### **Acceptable Continuing Education Topics**

- All areas addressed in the content matrix of the credentialing examinations of the National Board for Respiratory Care:
  - Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT®)
  - Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialist (CRT-NPS® or RRT-NPS®)
  - Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT®)
  - Sleep Disorders Testing and Therapeutic Intervention Respiratory Care Specialist (CRT-SDS® or RRT-SDS®)
  - Adult Critical Care Specialty (ACCS)
  - Therapist Multiple Choice Examination and Clinical Simulation Examination for the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT®) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT®) credentials
- All areas addressed in the content matrix of the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists' (BRPT) RPSGT® examination.
- All areas addressed in the content matrix of the National Asthma Educator Certification Board's (NAECB) AE-C® examination.

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- Emerging technology and its application in the delivery of respiratory care
- Courses and/or programs may be accredited if the content of the course or program is not directly related to clinical practice but relates to the following:
  - Education, supervision, and management
  - Health care cost containment or cost management
  - Preventative health services and health promotion
  - Medical ethics and legal aspects of health care
  - Patient safety/infection control
  - Bioterrorism and emergency preparedness

### **Professional Credential Requirements for Presenting Clinical Topics**

The person who delivers the content in the course or program is called the presenter in a traditional activity or the author in a non-traditional activity. The presenter/author is identified as a content expert and, as such, must be able to deliver the content in the context of respiratory care, in a language that is understood by respiratory therapists, and without commercial influence. The provider of the activity is responsible for ensuring the qualifications of the presenter/author for the activity. Qualified presenters/authors are those who are credentialed and/or hold a professional license that defines the scope of practice encompassing the topic being presented. Persons without a valid credential or license are not qualified for CRCE® approval. Exceptions are made for those persons for whom exceptional expertise can be provided and aligned with the program objectives. It is appropriate for approved CRCE topics to be presented by licensed professionals who are not respiratory therapists when their scope of practice includes the topic being presented. For this reason, appropriately licensed or credentialed employees of industry may present educational topics approved for CRCE but excludes presenters who do not hold an appropriate license or credential.