



NORTH CAROLINA RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

**1100 Navaho Drive, Suite 242
Raleigh, NC 27609**

Position Statement Accountability of RCP Supervisors

With regard to the accountability of RCP supervisors of individuals with Provisional licenses or RCP Students or RCP Students working as Respiratory Care Assistants, the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board would expect the supervisor to have a number of important safeguards in place including the following:

- An initial documented assessment of the skill level of an incoming Provisional licensee, RCP Student or Respiratory Care Assistant. All issues or deficiencies are identified and a specific plan to remedy deficiencies and avoid bad outcomes is adopted as part of the policies and procedures described below.
- A specific Licensed RCP, who is a graduate of an approved Respiratory Care Program, is identified as the supervisor of the Provisional licensee, the RCP Student or the Respiratory Care Assistant. That individual is available to the Provisional licensee, the RCP Student or the Respiratory Care Assistant at all times during the work schedule.
- RCP Students and Respiratory Care Assistants must be under the direct supervision of the Licensed RCP. The supervising RCP must be available in the same facility at the same time that a RCP Student or a Respiratory Care Assistant is providing services and is readily available to respond in a relatively short period of time.
- A written protocol is in place for the activities of the Provisional licensee, RCP Student and/or Respiratory Care Assistant, which details the appropriate scope of practice. The protocol also specifies how each will receive ongoing feedback concerning the level and quality of care he or she is providing, including face-to-face meetings with the identified supervisor on a regular basis that are sufficiently frequent in light of the nature and scope of practice and the nature of the organization.
- If and when problems in the performance of the Provisional licensee, RCP Student and/or Respiratory Care Assistant are identified, the supervising RCP takes steps to identify any issues of competency. The supervisor then takes steps to correct the problems in an appropriate time frame as defined by policy or protocol. The supervising RCP must report to the Board any violations of the Respiratory Care Practice Act, the Board Rules and Board interpretation of the Rules.

Approved January 2, 2003



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- Where a supervising RCP has these safeguards in place and these safeguards have been thoroughly and effectively explained to the Provisional licensee, RCP Student or Respiratory Care Assistant, and assuming that all aspects of the policy are followed appropriately by the supervising RCP, then the supervising RCP would not likely be held accountable or responsible by the Board for any negligence or malfeasance of the Provisional licensee, RCP Student or Respiratory Care Assistant. Of course, it is impossible to foresee every possible circumstance and so the Board can not make any statements categorically. Under the present foreseeable circumstances having these safeguards in place would result in the Board focusing its attention on the Provisional licensee or Respiratory Care Assistant with regard to disciplinary action.

Approved January 2, 2003