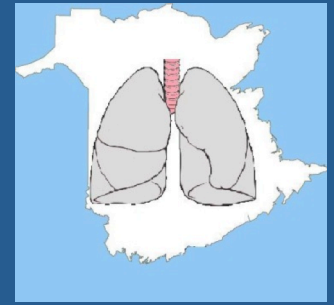


CONTINUING COMPETENCY PROGRAM FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS



*The New Brunswick
Association of
Respiratory
Therapists*

August 1, 2011

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Continuing Competency Requirements	4
Recognized Methods of Learning.....	5

Introduction

Respiratory Therapists in New Brunswick are members of a self-regulated health profession. The New Brunswick Association of Respiratory Therapists (NBART) is the body that regulates the practice of Respiratory Therapy and governs its members in accordance with the Act Respecting Respiratory Therapists, the by-laws and policies of the association to ensure they have the capacity, competence, capability and character to safely and ethically practice Respiratory Therapy in New Brunswick.

The NBART ensures competence by adopting the National Competency Profile for Respiratory Therapists, requiring graduation from accredited educational facilities and successful completion of recognized entry to practice examinations (Canadian Board of Respiratory Care only at this time). Requiring proof of active practice hours and compliance with a recognized continuing education program regulate Respiratory Therapists' competency in New Brunswick.

The following Continuing Competency Program outlines the requirements a Respiratory Therapist must meet to continue to practice in New Brunswick. These requirements include proof of active practice hours, participation in activities promoting professionalism and mandatory completion of the continuing competency program.

The list of recognized methods of learning enclosed defines the various categories of learning activities and assigns point values to each activity and each category.

The Registrar of the NBART will conduct audits of 5-10% of the membership annually. If selected for an audit, the member will receive notification from the Registrar with directions on how to submit proof of all learning activities and verification of active practice hours in the past year. The Registrar will contact the member if there are any questions or concerns about the submitted learning portfolio. Once the portfolio has been reviewed, the Registrar will notify the member. A deadline for submission will be set and failure to provide the requested documentation by the deadline will result in immediate suspension of the members' license to practice Respiratory Therapy in New Brunswick.

Continuing Competency Requirements

Hours of Work

A Respiratory Therapist must have been engaged in active practice within the previous twelve months. Active practice hours may be in the areas of clinical practice or management roles. Proof of active practice hours may be required during an audit of the member.

Inactive Members

Inactive members of the NBART will be exempt from providing proof of active practice hours. Members returning to active practice after 3 years of inactivity may be subject to knowledge and skills review before being allowed to hold an active license. This does not apply to members who have maintained an inactive license with the NBART but have continued the practice in another jurisdiction. Inactive members must meet all other registration requirements, including participation in the NBART Continuing Competency Program. Complete details of the inactive member classification can be found on the NBART website.

Competency Point Requirements

Members are required to accumulate a minimum of 20 continuing competency points annually. 2-5 points must be earned in the Professionalism category and the remaining points must be accumulated from a minimum of 4 categories of recognized methods of learning. The recognized methods of learning with assigned points are outlined below.

Professionalism: 2-5 points are required annually

Professionalism is defined as the following activities:

- Inter-professional Interaction
 - Presenting at multidisciplinary rounds, serving on inter-professional committees, providing education or in-services to members of other health care professions, other inter-professional activities
(1 point per hour of activity)

- Volunteerism
 - Serving as a member of the NBART Board of Directors or a committee, serving as a member of a health related organization
(1 point per hour of activity)

- Promotion of Respiratory Therapy, health and wellness promotional activities
(1 point per hour of activity)
- Mentorship/Preceptorship
 - Respiratory therapy students, new respiratory therapy staff, healthcare professionals other than Respiratory Therapists
(1 point per 7.5 hours of activities)
- Communication
 - Activities and/or learning experiences directed towards maintaining or improving verbal and written communication skills. Examples include participation in community activities such as coaching, school advisory committees, leadership opportunities within the community, committee work etc.
(1 point per hour of activity)

Continuing Education – minimum of 15 points required annually

Recognized Methods of Learning

1. On the Job - 1 point for each activity

- Participation in multidisciplinary patient rounds, teaching rounds or attendance at grand rounds with subject matter identified and related to the members' practice
- Development / revision of policies and procedures
- Educational module design
- Continuing education activities offered by employers that are related to the members' practice

2. Journal review – 1 point for each journal reviewed; one additional point for leading a journal club

- Participation in journal clubs or independent review of journal articles related to the members' practice. A brief description of the article's content will be

required.

3. In-services – 1 point for each in-service attended or 2 points for each in-service presented.

- Presentations given or attended on specific topics such as equipment, medication, therapies, diagnostic procedures etc. In-services may be in person, by teleconference, WebEx, telehealth etc. Subject matter must be identified and related to the members' area of practice within Respiratory Therapy.

4. Lectures – 1 point for each lecture attended or 2 points for each lecture given.

- Formal lectures attended or given at a conference or group setting or by electronic means such as teleconference, webinar, telehealth etc. The subject matter must be identified and related to the members' area of practice within Respiratory Therapy.

5. Interactive Workshops – 1 point for each hour of workshop attended or 2 points for each hour of workshop given.

- Hands on interactive learning activities that are designed to improve skills and competencies. The workshops' subject matter must be identified and related to the members' area of practice within Respiratory Therapy.

6. On Line Learning – 1 point for each hour of the course or the number of continuing education credits assigned by the course.

- Tutorials or courses offered on line with identified continuing education credits assigned. There must be a copy of a certificate of completion or a completed test submitted. The subject matter must be identified and related to the members' area of practice within Respiratory Therapy.

7. Certification Courses – 1 point per hour of the course to a maximum of 5 points for each completed course.

- Recognized courses that provide certification in specific skills and competencies such as BCLS, ACLS, PALS, NRP, ACORN, STABLE. The subject matter must be related to the members' area of practice. A copy of a completion certificate must be submitted.

8. Formal Education Program – 5 points for each course completed within a formal education program.

- Credit courses provided by an educational institution designed to further professional education.
- Completion of programs that provide additional professional certification such as COPD Educator or Asthma Educator. The subject matter must be related to the members' area of practice. A copy of a completion certificate is required.

9. Research – 1 point for each hour dedicated to a specific research project to a maximum of 5 points.

- Hours involved in the acquisition of data and literature searches related to a formal research project. An abstract of the research topic and findings will be required as well as the name of the senior researcher and title.
- Hours involved in the development of a research proposal. A copy of the approved proposal must be submitted.

10. Published Articles – 5 points for each article written for publication.

- Submission of the published article is required. If the article is related to formal research, the associated research will be credited under the research heading above.