

Breathing Matters



MAY 2015

AN E-NEWSLETTER FROM THE RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD

Increased Continuing Education Units Required for License Renewal Beginning July 2017

The Respiratory Care Board has amended its continuing education (CE) regulations to increase the number of CE hours required for license renewal. Beginning with licenses that expire on July 31, 2017, the number of CE hours required for renewal will increase from 15 to 30.

All other requirements remain unchanged. Two-thirds of the acquired CE hours must still be directly related to clinical practice (now 20 CE hours). Further, completion of the Law and Professional Ethics Course will continue to count as three non-clinical CE hours.

Beginning with July 2015 renewals, a notice advising licensees of the increased CE requirement will be distributed with all renewed pocket licenses. All licensed RCPs should plan their CE activities to ensure compliance with the increased requirement as part of their next license renewal.

For additional information regarding the CE increase, please contact the Board's office at 916.999.2190 or toll free at 866.375.0386.

Respiratory Baccalaureate Degrees to be Offered at Two California Community Colleges

Congratulations to Skyline College and Modesto Junior College for being selected by the California Community Colleges to participate in the baccalaureate degree pilot program! The Board is certain that both institutions will produce highly qualified respiratory therapists that will benefit patients and health care delivery systems.

California Respiratory Care Workforce Study

The Respiratory Care Board has contracted with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Institute for Health Policy Studies to conduct a Respiratory Care Workforce Study. Specifically, the study will address the following five research questions:

1. What is the feasibility and what would be the impact of establishing the requirement that (new incoming) respiratory therapists have a baccalaureate degree in California?
2. What are the curricular needs and implications of allowing Respiratory Care Practitioners to exercise prescriptive authority under protocol?
3. Are the current requirements regarding clinical supervision of RCP students adequate? Should there be modifications?
4. How effective are the Law and Professional Ethics courses that RCPs are currently required to take? Should they be mandated?
5. Should the number of continuing education (CE) hours be further increased or should the curricular requirements be changed?

The study is expected to occur over the next 12 to 18 months, and the Board will publish the findings once the study is completed.

