



RESPIRATORY UPDATE

Did you know...

- Experts are wanted! The Board needs you to review patient care related complaints. Look inside for more information.
- The Board is anticipating that no later than July 1, 2001, Board-approved sites will be open and ready to provide testing to RCP applicants.
- The Board will have its own web site up and running on or before July 1, 2001!

WE'VE MOVED!

The Respiratory Care Board of California has moved its Sacramento office!

On April 6, 2001, the Respiratory Care Board moved its office from Howe Avenue to a location closer to downtown Sacramento. The Board's new address and telephone and fax numbers are:

**444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 323-9983
Fax: (916) 323-9999**



Please note that all respiratory care practitioner license renewals should continue to be mailed to the post office box listed on each renewal; that address is unchanged.

MANDATORY REPORTING

Two laws went into effect January 1, 1999 which affect all RCPs and their employers.

Business and Professions Code (B&P), section 3758.5 requires all RCPs to report to the Respiratory Care Board of California (Board) any person that may be in violation of, or has violated, any of the laws and regulations administered by the Board.

B&P section 3758, requires any employer of an RCP to report to the Board the suspension or termination of any RCP in their employment, for any one or more of the following causes:

- Use of controlled substances or alcohol that impairs a RCP's ability to safely practice
- The unlawful sale of controlled substance(s) or prescription item(s)

- Patient neglect, physical harm to a patient, or sexual contact with a patient
- Falsification of medical records
- Gross incompetence or negligence
- Theft from patients, other employees, or the employer.

(Employers are subject to an administrative fine of up to \$10,000 for failure to make a report as required.)

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EXPERT WITNESSES NEEDED

The Respiratory Care Board of California (Board) uses board-licensed respiratory care practitioners as expert witnesses to assist in reviewing complaints against respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) where quality of care is an issue.

Expert witnesses review anywhere from one to ten cases per year and earn \$75 - \$100 per hour. To be considered as an expert witness for the Board, you must meet the following qualifications:

1. Possess a current and valid RCP license issued by the Board.
2. Be actively practicing as a RCP (80 or more hours per month, or if teaching, 40 or more hours of patient care per month), or retired less than two years.
3. Possess at least 5 years experience as a licensed RCP.

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Cathleen A. McCoy Resigns

The Board will greatly miss Ms. McCoy who managed the Board for nearly eleven years and was instrumental in advancing consumer protection. She had received several awards and recognition for her contributions towards consumer protection.

Thank you Cathleen!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

August 10, 2001
Sacramento, CA
Meeting Location
TBA

November 9, 2001
Southern California
Meeting Location
TBA



Agendas for upcoming meetings are available 10 days prior to the meeting date. If you would like to receive an agenda for an upcoming meeting contact the RCB at (916) 323-9983 or visit our website at: www.rcb.ca.gov

BOARD WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Respiratory Care Board of California (Board) has been working on its own web site and expects it to be available on or before July 1, 2001.

The web site will feature information for applicants, licensees and employers as well as consumers. The Board's Respiratory Stat which features discipline information will also be available. The Board is anticipating that on-line license verification will be available by June 30th of next year (2002).

Please visit our web site at:
www.rcb.ca.gov

EXPERT WITNESSES NEEDED . . .

4. Have no disciplinary record with the Board or any licensing board in any state.
5. Not have any open investigations pending, or complaints closed (with merit) within the previous five years.

All applicants are screened to confirm requirements are met.

When Board staff sends an expert a case for review, the expert is expected to review the case in its entirety and prepare a report supporting a conclusion

as to whether or not the alleged actions violate the laws and regulations governing respiratory care. Of those cases where violations are found, approximately

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two-thirds are generally settled. If a case goes to hearing, the expert will be called to testify in his/her capacity as an expert witness for the Board.

Reimbursement for reviewing cases and preparing a report is at the rate of \$75 per hour. If the case goes to hearing, reimbursement is \$100 per hour, up to \$800 per day, plus actual travel expenses.

The Board is recruiting expert witnesses throughout the state. If you are interested, please send your resume or curriculum vitae with a cover letter explaining why you believe you would make a good expert. Submissions must include your:

- Name, address and telephone numbers
- E-mail address (if applicable)
- Completed Education
- Professional Affiliations
- Past and present work experience (minimum 7 yrs.-including each employer's name, address and telephone number).
- Proof or a method to verify that you meet qualification numbers 2 and 3 listed on the previous page.

Board President is Honored!

Barry Winn, Ed. D., RCP was recently awarded the Leadership Award by the San Diego/Imperial County Chapter of the American Lung Association in recognition of nearly 30 years of volunteer work.

In addition to his duties as Clinical Coordinator of the Respiratory Department at Grossmont College, Dr. Winn has been active in a myriad of respiratory-related volunteer organizations and has been instrumental in encouraging many of his students to become volunteers as well. Dr. Winn was recognized for being one of the main medical advisors on the Lung Express, a 40-foot bus that will visit schools and community events to teach kids and families about lung health as well as helping establish the San Diego Pulmonary Society.

Congratulations to Dr. Winn and keep up the *GREAT* work!

BOARD MEMBERS

Barry Winn, Ed.D., RCP, President
Richard L. Sheldon, M.D.
Gary N. Stern, Esq.

EXAMINATION UPDATE

The Respiratory Care Board of California (Board) and the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) have entered into a contract which allows the Board to utilize the NBRC's computer-based entry level CRT examinations at Board-approved testing sites on a daily basis. The contract is valid through December 2003.

Benefits of daily computerized testing allow applicants to sit for the examination throughout the calendar year and provide examination scores to the applicants before they leave the examination site!

A minimum of 10 Board-approved sites will be available throughout the state.

For more information related to the new process of scheduling exams and the issuance of work permits, please contact the RCB office at (916) 323-9983.



HAVE YOU MOVED?

Just a reminder. . .

You must notify the Board in writing if you have changed your address of record within 14 days of such change (ref: CCR section 1399.340).

Your written request must include your RCP number, your new address, and your signature. The Board office will accept faxed notification, however, address changes are not taken over the telephone.

See page 5 for address change form.

Continuing Education Audits

Did you know the Board performs routine audits on a random sample of respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) for compliance with the Continuing Education (CE) requirements?

Each respiratory care practitioner is required to complete 15 hours of approved CE for every two-year renewal period. At least 10 of those 15 hours must be related to clinical practice as noted in California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1399.352.

Licensees are required to retain supporting documentation showing evidence of CE completion for a period of four years (ref.: CCR section 1399.350).

Failure to provide proper documentation showing completion of approved CE programs will cause the RCP license to become inactive; therefore prohibiting the practice of respiratory care.

For more information on CE requirements, please contact the Board or visit our web site at: www.rcb.ca.gov

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME : _____

RCP #: _____ SSN: _____

New Address:

Telephone #: _____

Old Address:

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Respiratory Care Board
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Sacramento, California 95814



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Respiratory Care Board of California MISSION

"To protect and serve the consumer by administering and enforcing the Respiratory Care Practice Act and its regulations in the interest of the safe practice of respiratory care."