



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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**Inquiry:** I am an instructor of Respiratory Care at a private junior college. Many of the clinical sites my students attend practice concurrent therapy (stacking treatments) not all due to treatment load. I know the RCB does not set "treatment load" guidelines but what is the RCB's stance on concurrent therapy? Is it legal? Is it fraud? I have read the AARC white paper on this subject but I am unclear on the legal aspect.

**Response:** The Practice Act currently does not address this fact. However, the Board is aware that some hospitals have chosen to implement concurrent therapy policies to control costs. The question of concurrent therapy as it relates to its legal or fraudulent use is one that should be asked of the Department of Health Services as well as Medicare. I believe the intent of the federal register would consider concurrent therapy as a non-billable service but, I think, that is a decision that would be better clarified from them directly. Both the Department of Health Services and Medicare contact information are provided below for your reference:

**Department of Health Services**

714/ 744 P Street,  
Sacramento CA, 95814  
(916) 445-4171

**MEDICARE**

Toll Free Telephone:  
1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227)  
Website: [www.medicare.com](http://www.medicare.com)

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