



State of California
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Inquiry: I know that RCPs can take verbal or telephone orders from a physician. My question is, can an RCP take verbal or telephone orders from a Nurse Practitioner, a Physician Assistant or any other profession? Please let me know. We are only about 2 weeks away from a JCAHO visit and we want to have all of our information correct.

Response: Section 3703 (b) states, "The practice of respiratory care shall be performed under the supervision of a medical director in accordance with a prescription of a physician and surgeon or pursuant to respiratory care protocols as specified in section 3702". In the acute care setting, nurse practitioners and physician assistants operate under the direction of their supervising physician. It would therefore not be appropriate to have respiratory practitioners accept verbal orders from them. The practice should be that these providers write their own orders that are then countersigned by their supervising physician.

Reference #: 2004-C-15