



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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**Inquiry:**

I have a question regarding the licensing and credentials of a respiratory therapist. Currently at this facility, we are organizing a neonatal intensive care unit under the direction of hospitalist doctors, which includes a neonantologist. We have a core group of respiratory therapist 2 on days and 2 on nights, and I am the one with the most experience, I am also the only one that has the RRT credentials. My question is in regards to respiratory therapist going out and picking up and dropping off neonates at other facilities, do they have to have the RRT credentials to do neonatal transports, and if so where can I get written directions where it states this. I come from the Los Angeles area and there the facilities required for you to have RRT to work in the neonatal ICU and to do any transports. If anyone has any information or how to obtain information about this matter please get back to me ASAP.

**Response:**

We have reviewed your inquiry received on February 18, 2005 and have the following opinion to offer.

The current Practice Act and the other legislative laws do not dictate the RRT credential to perform transports of neonatal patients from location to location. In most cases the level of experience and qualifications required to work with this specialized class of patients is dictated by the organizations policies and procedures. As you are probably aware having the credential RRT does not necessarily make a person competent to transport critically ill term or premature babies.

The Board would suggest a focused effort on defining what skills and competencies would be needed to allow these transports to be conducted with patient safety as the first priority. Whatever those skills are, competencies would then need to be added to the orientation process for all staff that may be called upon to transport these patients.

Reference #: 2005-C-03