



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I would appreciate clarification of the limits of “non-licensed” personnel adjusting oxygen liter flows during in-house transport.

Hypothetically, if a an acute care facility were to institute an in-house transportation department for the purpose of transporting patients from point A to point B internally, can the unlicensed transporter set the liter flow for oxygen if they have received training and can show competency? There are differing opinions about this, and I would appreciate your input. Thank you.

Response: It is the opinion of the Board that unlicensed personnel, despite the facilities best efforts of training, should not be allowed to apply or adjust therapeutic modalities such as oxygen therapy. It is also the position of the Board that this responsibility should only be delegated to licensed personnel to ensure patient safety. Our decision is based upon the fact that oxygen is still considered a drug with the potential to cause harm if applied incorrectly and that this is the type of function that falls within the scope of practice of a licensed respiratory therapist.

Thank you for your inquiry. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Officer of the Respiratory Care Board.

Reference #: 2005-C-06