



ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Molly Quinn Jensen MBA, RRT, RRT-ACCS
Chair, RRT Entry to Practice Committee MSRC
612-703-8550
Email: mollyquinnjensen@gmail.com

Carrie Bourassa, RRT, LRT
Legislative Committee, MSRC
Cell: 612-578-7751
Email: carrie.black@live.com

THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF THE WHITE PAPER: “REGISTERED RESPIRATORY THERAPIST (RRT) AS A MINIMUM TO PRACTICE RESPIRATORY CARE IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA”

St. Paul, Minnesota. March 15, 2019 – The Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care, has released a position paper that supports the shift in practice of Respiratory Care.

The Minnesota Society of Respiratory Care (MSRC) is pleased to release a position statement regarding respiratory therapy minimum competency standards for Minnesota state licensure.

This shift in professional structure and practice qualification, is one which calls for and supports the RRT as a minimum requirement to practice respiratory therapy in the state of Minnesota.

Attached is the "White Paper" which was approved for distribution at the Board of Director's meeting Friday March 15, 2019.

The "White Paper" marks an important milestone for the MSRC as it advocates for greater commitment to patient care and professionalism for Respiratory Care in Minnesota.

If you have any questions regarding this document, all inquiries are welcome.



White Paper on RRT as a Minimum: The Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential is requisite for obtaining licensure as a Minnesota respiratory therapist.

The Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC) endorses and supports the establishment of the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential as the minimum competency requirement for practicing respiratory therapists in Minnesota.

The MSRC encourages all respiratory therapists to pass the RRT exam as a base competency. The MSRC does not support or condone the elimination of respiratory therapists practicing without an RRT credential *prior to* the enactment of such regulation. The MSRC recommends the use of a “grandfather clause” exemption for licensed respiratory therapists (i.e., licensed prior to the regulation taking effect). After the regulation is enacted, new licensees will be required to take and pass the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) RRT exam or its equivalent in Minnesota. The MSRC maintains that after the regulation takes effect, all Minnesota respiratory therapists take and pass the RRT exam, prior to licensure, as demonstration of minimal competency.

Currently, the RRT for entry to licensure is proposed in Minnesota bills HF2910 and SF2900.

Rationale:

Moving to the RRT as a minimum competency will:

- Increase the safe and practicable utility of Minnesota respiratory therapists for all health care consumers.
- Help ensure the competent practice of respiratory therapists, increasing safety and quality care for patients in Minnesota.
- Match existing respiratory therapy educational standards with the appropriate credential-based competency.
- Eliminate the identification misnomer of “RRT Eligible.”
- Decrease Respiratory Care Board disciplinary intervention and associated costs.
- Increase credibility and enhance clinical reliance on Minnesota respiratory therapists as the cardiopulmonary caregivers/consultants by qualifying respiratory therapists statewide with this higher level of competency testing.
- Move the profession closer to a statewide scope of practice as opposed to individual hospital-regulated scope of the Respiratory Care discipline.

Advantages of RRT qualified respiratory therapists:

The statewide elevated standard will further protect Minnesota healthcare consumers in terms of safety and efficacious practice without increasing consumer cost. The new paradigm will set the stage for greater direct respiratory therapist reimbursement from healthcare payment providers. The increased baseline competency will enhance the professionalism of respiratory therapists in all areas of practice. Respiratory therapy educators directly will address the RRT passage mandate as being requisite prior to practice of Respiratory Care in Minnesota.