

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
RESPIRATORY CARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 10, 2017
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215, Room 100**

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: John Brown, M.D., Carroll Reese, RCP, RRT, MBA, Ph.D, Karen Goodison, MS, RRT-NPS, RPFT (Conference Call), Thomas French, BS, RRT, RCP, Joseph Rabin, M.D.

STAFF PRESENT: Felicia Wright, Allied Health Supervisor, Cecilia Laurent, Allied Health Analyst, Wynee Hawk, R.N., J.D., Manager, Policy and Legislation, Julie Washington, Allied Health Licensure Analyst

ABSENT: Christopher Franklin, M.D., Noreen Rubin, Board Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:44 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Carroll Reese and seconded by Thomas French, the Committee voted to approve the May 11, 2017 open meeting minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Setting up of CPAP/BiPAP Machines

Dr. Brown informed the Respiratory Care Professional Standards Committee (RCPSC) that they will be attending the Polysomnographers Professional Standards Committee meeting on August 24, 2017 at 4:00 p.m., to discuss developing a Position Statement for the Setting up of CPAP/BiPAP Machines. Carroll Reese and Karen Goodison stated that they are unable to attend. Dr. Rabin requested to attend via conference call.

NEW BUSINESS - Letter from Tom Striplin, President of the Maryland/DC Society for Respiratory Care regarding NBRC Credential and Licensure

Mr. Striplin, President of the Maryland/DC Society for Respiratory Care submitted a letter to the Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) regarding the NBRC Credential and Licensure. The NBRC's Continuing Competency Program (CCP) requires credential holders to provide evidence they are continuing to meet current standards of practice and have successfully renewed their national credentials. Practitioners who fail to meet this requirement lose their active credential status and can no longer use the NBRC issued credential. There have been numerous documented cases where hospitals discovered practicing Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs)

that no longer hold an active NBRC credential and yet, are licensed to practice respiratory care. RCPs who fail to successfully complete the NBRC's CCP no longer have the legal right to display the credential behind their name, but do hold a valid license to practice.

Tom Striplin is requesting that the Board make changes to the current regulations to reflect that RCPs be required to provide verification of an active NBRC credential to renew their Maryland State license. The Society wants to ensure that the licensure board will not renew a license to an individual who no longer legally possesses an NBRC credential at the time of renewal. In other words, RCPs should be required to provide proof of valid NBRC credentials for initial licensure and upon renewal. Currently a valid NBRC credential is only required for an initial license.

Mr. French stated that this is becoming a common practice with some states where you must have an active NBRC credential to maintain state licensure. Subsequently, some state licensure boards are currently checking for active NBRC credentials at the time of renewal.

Ms. Wright stated that the Board is governed by statutes and regulations and currently Maryland does not require RCPs to have an active NBRC credential to renew their state license. A regulatory change would be needed to reflect a new requirement for licensure renewal.

Ms. Hawk provided an overview of the regulatory process, informing the RCPSC that making a change in the regulations is a 60-90 day process. Ms. Hawk also stated that unless there is proper public health and safety justification for regulatory change, or if the change is required by statute, it will mostly like not be approved.

Dr. Brown asked if this change in the regulation is really a matter of public health and safety or is it just about the NBRC not wanting practitioners to display the credential behind their name if they no longer hold an active NBRC credential? The committee discussed the pros and cons concerning the change in regulation. Some committee members stated they do not agree with the change and more research on this matter should be done before a decision is made.

Ms. Washington informed the Committee that she will be attending the NBRC Annual Meeting and will get more information on this topic and report back to the Committee. The Committee agreed to revisit this matter until more information is gathered.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Submitted by:

Julie Washington
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