

Home Respiratory Care Services

Home respiratory care is defined as those respiratory care services provided in a patient's personal residence. Respiratory care services include, but are not limited to:

- patient assessment and monitoring
- diagnostic and therapeutic modalities and services
- disease management, and
- patient, family and caregiver education.

These services are provided on a physician's written, verbal or telecommunicated order (as required) and practiced under appropriate law, regulation, and qualified medical direction or physician supervision. A patient's place of residence may include, but is not limited to: single-family homes, multi-family dwellings, assisted living facilities, and retirement communities.

The goals of home respiratory care are to work together with the health care team to:

- develop an individualized plan of care designed to minimize symptoms and limitations, achieve a maximum level of patient function;
- educate patients and their caregivers to maximize participation in self-care and enhance compliance with prescribed care;
- inform the health care team on the patient's condition and response to care plan;
- administer diagnostic and therapeutic modalities and services as prescribed;
- conduct disease state management; and
- promote health, minimizing the need for hospitalization and other higher levels of care.

It is the position of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) that the respiratory therapist—by virtue of education, training, and competency testing—is the most competent health care professional to provide prescribed home respiratory care. The complexities of the provision of home respiratory care are such that the public is placed at a significant risk of injury when respiratory care services are provided by unqualified persons, either licensed or unlicensed, rather than by persons with appropriate education, training, credentials, and competency documentation.

Although access to home respiratory care is limited at this time by reimbursement for services, it is the position of the AARC that practitioners who are employed to provide home respiratory care possess the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) or Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential awarded by the National Board for Respiratory Care, as well as state licensure or certification where applicable.

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