

Entry Requirements to Respiratory Therapy Practice: 2030 and Thereafter

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) recommends the following requirements for Respiratory Therapists entering the workforce beginning in 2030 and thereafter. The AARC asserts that meeting these requirements is essential for respiratory therapists to be able to demonstrate the minimum competencies needed to provide safe, effective, and efficient patient care in an increasingly complex and evolving health care environment.

The Respiratory Therapist entering practice in 2030 and thereafter must:

- Obtain a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in respiratory therapy or health sciences with a concentration in respiratory therapy.

AND

- Have earned the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC).

These requirements must be achieved by all new therapists prior to beginning their practice.

The proposed requirements are not intended to negatively affect the practice of respiratory therapists engaged in active practice prior to 2030 if they have maintained their NBRC credentials and state licensure in good standing. However, state licensure regulations will ultimately determine the impact on this group of practitioners.

Evidence supporting the proposed requirements, as well as resources to assist with their implementation by 2030, are provided in the AARC issue paper entitled “Entry to Respiratory Therapy Practice 2030”.

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