

Competency Requirements for the Provision of Respiratory Care Services

The complexities of respiratory care are such that the public is at risk of injury, and health care institutions are at risk of liability when respiratory care is provided by inadequately educated and unqualified health care providers rather than by practitioners appropriately educated in the specialty of respiratory care.

All health care practitioners providing respiratory care services to patients, regardless of the care setting, age, gender and gender identity, race, color and ethnicity, nationality, and national origin, shall successfully complete training and demonstrate initial competence prior to assuming those duties. This training and demonstration of competence shall be required of any health care provider regardless of credential, degree, or license.

Formal education is defined as a systematic educational activity in the affective, psychomotor, and cognitive domains. It is intended to develop new proficiencies with an application in mind and is presented with attention to needs, objectives, activities, and a defined method of evaluation.

The education shall be approved by a national accrediting entity. In the allied health fields, this training includes supervised pre-clinical (didactic and laboratory) and clinical activities, as well as documentation of competence accredited by an independent accrediting entity to be valid and reliable. The qualifications of the faculty providing this training shall be documented and meet accreditation standards.

The AARC, therefore, supports recognition of individuals with competencies from the aforementioned accredited formal education programs for the purpose of providing care, which includes a subsection of the respiratory care scope of practice with the caveat that such provision be limited to the elements contained within each credentialing examination's matrix respectively.

Effective: 11/98
Revised: 12/08, 11/11
Reviewed: 7/2014
Revised: 04/2019