



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care is a Government Agency that regulates respiratory care practitioners and their services. The KBRC was established in 1990 to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky from unsafe practitioners and practices.

KBRC NEWSLETTER 2008 Summer Edition

Board Information

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A Very Successful Online Renewal Debut & Online Verification of Licensure



The KBRC would like to thank all respiratory therapists who renewed their license online in 2008. It marked the first time the KBRC has offered this service and the Board was excited to see that 50% of the renewals were done online. Some difficulties were caused by server problems and were resolved quickly. The KBRC & KY. Gov. look forward to offering online renewing for 2009 as well.

Our online verification has also gone over big with Respiratory and H. R. Departments. They can check the website to see if therapists have updated and renewed their license. Individual therapists can also check their status as well. **Note: This is for verification of current licensure status only. It will not contain information of disciplinary actions and will not be acceptable to use as a state verification for those going to work in other states.** The \$16.00 payment is for those who wish to print out official documentation of licensure status for employment in the state of Kentucky. Any and all requests for disciplinary actions, state verifications or letters of good standing should be directed to the Board's office along with the appropriate fees.

Do you have Questions regarding NBRC Policies?

There has been a lot of confusion about the NBRC's RRT eligibility and continuing education requirements in conjunction with the removal of credentials. Here is what you should know about the NBRC regulations:

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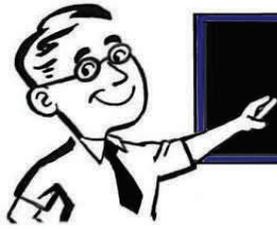
Contact the KBRC

Board Office:

(859) 246-2747, Fax:

(859) 246-2750 or online

at: <http://kbrc.ky.gov>



Continuing Education News

Helpful CEU information

ACLS, PALS - 10 CEUs each, **NALS or NRP** - 8 CEUs and all **ACLS & PALS Instructor courses** are 10 CEUs as of 2006 to present. Note: Only licensed therapists can use college courses for CEU purposes.

Academic courses (a course offered by an accredited post secondary institution) eligible for continuing education credit

The following academic courses are eligible for continuing education:

- A respiratory course above the 300 level

- A course in biological, psychological, sociological, or physical sciences relevant to patient care and above the 300 level. Relevant means having content applicable to the practice of respiratory care.

- A course applicable to respiratory care practice and appropriate for the respiratory care practitioner employed in the areas of clinical practice, administration, education, or research.

- A continuing education course is approved, if it:

- Is an organized program of learning;

- Pertains to subject matters which integrally relate to the practice of respiratory care and contributes to the professional competency of the licensee, and

- is conducted by individuals who have educational training or experience acceptable to the Board.

Note: If a continuing education course has not been previously accredited by the Board, do not wait until you renew your license to get approval for that course. Your renewal may be delayed. Seek prior approval for continuing education credit on courses not previously accredited by the Board. Students cannot use college courses for future CEU credit.

Note: Be careful when trying to use nursing CEUs. Make certain that they have either been approved by the AARC for a determined amount of CEUs or the KBRC has approved them. Some nursing ACLS courses give more CEUs than the KBRC can allow. Respiratory Therapy only allows 10 CEUs for ACLS.

A list of approved/denied CEUs is located on our website: <http://kbrc.ky.gov>. Scroll down the Continuing Education page to the bottom and click on Approved/Denied. CEUs are only viable for two years from date of approval.

Do you have Questions regarding NBRC Policies? (continued from page 1)

Eligibility Three Year Time Limit

Below is a list of questions about the new deadline and how it impacts you. The NBRC is available to answer additional questions by phone or email. Contact them at 888-341-4811 or by email nbrc-info@www.nbrc.org.

I don't know if I'm eligible for the extension. How do I find out?

You're eligible for the extension, if you graduated from an advanced-level respiratory therapy education program with an associate degree prior to Jan. 1, 2005, but HAVE NOT earned the RRT credential yet. You can also check your status by contacting the NBRC.

Why adopt a three year time limit to pass the RRT Examination after graduating from an advanced-level program?

NBRC approved the three year time limit in 2005 to ensure that individuals who consider themselves "registry eligible" have taken and passed the RRT Examination and demonstrated their knowledge and competence.

In 2003, the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), and the NBRC recognized the RRT credential as the "standard of excellence" for respiratory care professionals. At the request of the AARC and CoARC, NBRC approved a policy on Jan. 1, 2005 that requires graduates of advanced-level programs to complete the CRT and RRT Examinations within three (3) years of graduation. The policy also required advanced-level graduates with an associate degree who had already earned the CRT credential to complete the RRT by December 31, 2007.

What if I graduated from an advanced-level program after January 1, 2005?

The extension only applies to individuals who graduated before January 1, 2005. If you graduated after this date, you still have only three years from the date of your graduation to earn the RRT credential.

If I'm eligible for the extension, what happens if I don't earn the RRT credential by February 28, 2009?

While the NBRC is dedicated in supporting respiratory therapists, there will be no further extension of this deadline. We have used a variety of channels to communicate this important information with certificants. Some are listed below:

Posting detailed information on the NBRC Web site

Posting announcements on affiliated Web sites, such as the AARC

Publishing updates in industry publications, such as AARC Times and NBRC Horizons

Communicating with managers and directors of hospital respiratory therapy departments

Sending e-mail blasts to certificants impacted by the extension

Communicating with state societies and licensing agencies

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I missed the original deadline of December 31, 2007 to earn my RRT credential, so I took the CRT Examination again to reinstate my eligibility. What should I do now?

The NBRC will refund the examination fee you paid to take the CRT Examination to reinstate your eligibility. We appreciate your dedication to earning the RRT credential and maintaining your eligibility. You should take the RRT Examination by the new deadline of February 28, 2009.

Will testing be available through the new deadline of February 28, 2009?

NBRC will test candidates following our normal procedures. However, we cannot guarantee testing availability for candidates who wait until January or February of 2009. We encourage you to apply and attempt to pass the RRT Examination as soon as possible.

The NBRC Continuing Competency Program

How does this relate to me and my credentials?

To answer this question completely, you need to go to the NBRC website and read what they have set forth as guidelines for the program and see if you fall within them. Here is the link to take you right to their web page. Copy and paste into your search box and click go. <https://www.nbrc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Jcqkm%2fjPiHg%3d&tabid=60&mid=490>

The NBRC gives you three options to take care of your credentials.

Always remember the NBRC will handle all credentialing issues, while the KBRC will take care of all state licensure matters.



KBRC Laws & Regulations

Lapsed Licensure—No Licensure

At the February 2007 meeting the Board discussed guidelines for legal counsel to take actions against individuals who have worked without proper license. The Board charged legal counsel and staff to issue Agreed Orders to those individuals found to have worked illegally. Suspensions of up to two (2) weeks and fines up to \$750 (\$50 per day) were issued. Any person fined over \$750 and suspended more than two (2) weeks, would need approval by the Board at its next scheduled meeting before a license could be reissued or reinstated.

The KBRC Wants You To Get Help If You Need It

KYPRN Spring/Summer 2008 Report

Article by Brian Fingerson



I've been looking over the reports that were prepared in the past few weeks for the Boards of five healthcare professions. These reports show work with over one hundred healthcare professionals who have experienced problems with use of alcohol/drugs. Some of these people continue to face legal charges; some still face professional discipline; some are struggling with decisions about returning to the profession for which they spent years in training. Yet what really stands out from

these reports are the overwhelming number of those people who have successfully returned to the practice of their chosen profession.

They have been allowed to return to the practice of their profession because their licensing Boards have come to realize that addiction is a disease that is treatable. It is not a moral failing. Their licensing Boards have come to realize that appropriate treatment and consistent monitoring of the professional's recovery after treatment can allow that person an opportunity to again become a productive member of the profession as well as a productive member of society in general.

Take whatever opportunities that you find to educate yourself about how your profession's recovery program can help that colleague who may be struggling with substance dependency. Confidential help is available through the Kentucky Professionals Recovery Network – KYPRN. Brian Fingerson may be reached at 502-749-8385 or at kyprn@insightbb.com.



Symptoms of Alcohol Dependence

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, the symptoms of alcohol dependence include:

Neglect of Other Activities: The drinker's alcohol use reduces or eliminates important social, work-related or recreational activities.

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Excessive Use: The drinker begins to consume larger amounts of alcohol over a longer period of time than intended.

Impaired Control: The drinker makes repeated unsuccessful attempts to cut down or control how much he/she drinks.

Persistence of Use: The drinker continues to consume alcohol despite knowing that his/her drinking is causing or contributing to a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem.

Large Amounts of Time Spent in Alcohol Related Activities: The drinker spends an abnormal amount of time on activities involved with obtaining, using and/or recovering from the effects of alcohol.

Withdrawal: When the drinker stops drinking for a short period of time, he/she experiences symptoms such as nausea, sweating, shaking or anxiety.

Tolerance: The drinker needs increasing amounts of alcohol to achieve the same level of intoxication.

You might say – I don't drink alcohol. You can substitute any other substance for the word alcohol in this list. If you think you may "qualify" as someone who is concerned over one's own drinking or drug use or that of someone else, you may call Brian Fingerson, RPh at the KY Professionals Recovery Network-KYPRN at 502-749-8385 or by email at kyprn@insightbb.com for help.

Get to know your new KBRC Board members



James P. Bronson, Jr., BS, RRT,-NPS, RPFT

Gov. Beshear appointed Mr. Bronson to the KBRC on 01/25/2008 for a 3 year term expiring on 10/31/2010.

Mr. Bronson has worked in the Field of Respiratory Care since 2000, as a Floor Therapist, Pulmonary Functions Technologist and the Director of Clinical Education for the Respiratory Program in Bowling Green. He is a 2000 graduate from Bowling Green Technical College's Respiratory Program. He retired from the US Army in 1999, after 21 years of service. He has earned a Bachelors of Science in Business from Madison University and an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Care from Western Kentucky University.

He is credentialed by the National Board of Respiratory Care as a Registered Respiratory Therapist, Neonatal Pediatric Specialist, and a Registered Pulmonary Functions Technologist.

He is also credentialed by the Asthma Education Certification Board as an Asthma Educator.

Joint Commission Clarifies Position on Nursing Oversight

May 14, 2008

AARC's opposition to a proposed Joint Commission standard has paid off, as the group will clarify language regarding a proposed Nursing Executive standard that raised much concern among respiratory therapy departments. The proposed standard, if adopted, could have been interpreted to require ancillary services such as pharmacy, physical therapy and respiratory therapy to provide service under the coordination of the nurse executive. The Joint Commission contacted the AARC and said, "The note will be eliminated from the [standard] and the requirement will be modified to clarify that the intent of the requirement is that the nurse executive coordinates the development of organization-wide patient care programs." The AARC and other groups had been concerned that the proposal could be interpreted to mean that the respiratory services would fall under nursing service reimbursement rather than ancillary services or that the physician medical direction of a department could be compromised. The Joint Commission has clarified that this was not the intent and will reword the provision. The AARC originally alerted its members to this issue in March.

This article is located at: <http://www.aarc.org/headlines/08/05/oversight.cfm>

Important Dates & Events in 2008

KSRC State Meeting - September 11-12

**Location: Four Points Sheraton, 1938 Stanton Way
Lexington, KY 40511
(859) 259-1311**

NBRC Annual State Licensure Meeting - September 12-13

Location: Olathe, Kansas

2008 Respiratory Care Week - October 19-25

AARC 54th International Respiratory Congress

Dec 13-16, 2008

Location: Anaheim, California

(See the upcoming KBRC Board meeting schedule for 2008 at the "About Us" page of our website.)
<http://kbrc.ky.gov>



If you did not get a chance to read the last issue of the KBRC Newsletter, You can still find it available at the KBRC website: <http://kbrc.ky.gov>
The KBRC website can help you find answers regarding your licensure, scope of practice, continuing education and verification questions. The Board's office will also take your questions over the phone at: (859) 246-2747 Fax us at: (859) 246-2750



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