

December 11, 2007

Inquiry:

NBRC Continued Competency Policy and its effect on licensure in Ohio

Background:

Beginning on July 1, 2002, credentials awarded by the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc. (NBRC) are subject to the NBRC's continued competency policy. Credentials awarded by the NBRC are valid for a period of five years beginning on from the end of the calendar month for the date of issue. To maintain an active credential the holder must renew the credential every five years by complying with one of three continuing competency requirements:

- 1) Provide proof of completing a minimum of 30 category I contact hours of continuing education. The NBRC intends for the continuing education to be in coordination with state licensing requirements.
- 2) Re-take and pass the respective examination for the highest credential held by the holder.
- 3) Pass an NBRC examination not previously completed.

The question before the Board:

If a licensed respiratory care professional in the State of Ohio chooses to not participate in the NBRC's mandatory process or if, by NBRC action, a credential is lapsed, will the State of Ohio take disciplinary action and seek to revoke a license.

Position:

The Ohio Respiratory Care Board concludes that the policy decisions of the NBRC and the State of Ohio are independent and, except for initial licensure, unrelated. Licensure in the State of Ohio and subsequent maintenance of licensure are subject solely to the provision of Ohio law. Revocation of a license can only be considered for grounds listed

under Section 4761.09 of the Revised Code. The Board finds no direct relationship to those grounds and any violation of the NBRC continuing competency policy.