

Tennessee Board of Respiratory Care



Newsletter

Spring 2013

A regulatory agency of the State of Tennessee

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Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation • Health Related Boards • 227 French Landing, Suite 300, Heritage Place MetroCenter, Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: (615) 253-5087 - Toll Free: (800) 778-4123 ext. 2535087 - Fax: (615) 741-7698 - <http://tn.gov/health>

Respiratory Care Meetings for 2013

The 2013 Board Meetings will be held at 227 French Landing, Heritage Place, Metro Center, Nashville, TN, 37243, on the Ground Floor.

Board Meetings

February 14, 2013
Poplar Conference Room
9:00 a.m.

May 23, 2013
Iris Conference Room
9:00 a.m.

August 29, 2013
Iris Conference Room
9:00 a.m.

November 13, 2013
Poplar Conference Room
9:00 a.m.

The Tennessee Open Meetings Act passed by the General Assembly in 1974 requires that meetings of state, city and county government bodies be open to the

public and that any such governmental body give adequate notice of such meeting. Open meeting notices can also be accessed at

<http://health.state.tn.us/boards/calendar.htm>

This form is also available on the bulletin board in the reception area of the Health Related Boards located at 227 French Landing, Suite 300, Heritage Place Metro Center, Nashville, TN 37243. A copy may also be requested by calling the Board office.

BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITY

A Farewell and Thanks to Former Board Members

Colleen Schabacker, RRT
Cookeville, TN

Roger M. Major, RRT
Hendersonville, TN

Teresa Hatcher, Consumer
Lebanon, TN

Welcome New Board Appointees

Ray Davis, RRT
Jackson, TN

John Schario, Hospital Administrator
Johnson City, TN

ACCESSING THE BOARD'S WEB SITE

- Log on to <http://tn.gov/health>
- In the title bar: Click on For Health Care Professionals
- Under Health Related Boards: Click on Respiratory Care

There are many resources on our web site including, but not limited to, the rules, statutes, applications, policy statements and a list of approved educational schools/programs. License renewal and licensure

verification may also be utilized on this web site. This is a valuable resource. Please use it often.

RETIREMENT AND YOUR LICENSE

1. Retiring from full or part time employment **DOES NOT** retire your license.
2. If you retire from full or part time employment and you **DO NOT** retire your license, you are considered by the Board of Respiratory Care to be a licensed, practicing Respiratory Therapist until renewal and so long as you keep renewing your license.
3. As an active licensee, regardless of your employment status, you are subject to the rules and regulations of your license which includes paying renewal fees and completing all continuing education requirements. To officially retire your license upon retirement from full or part time employment, it is required that you make formal application. The [Affidavit of Retirement from Practice in Tennessee](#) (PH-3460) may be downloaded from our web site, or if this is not possible, you may call the administrative office for a retirement form and instructions. There is no charge for retiring your license.
4. **PLEASE NOTE:** Upgrade from a CRT to an RRT license does not automatically retire your CRT license. You must formally retire your CRT license by sending in the [Affidavit of Retirement from Practice in Tennessee](#)

PUBLIC NOTICE INFORMATION

Public Chapter 230

Provides that each health-related board shall establish a procedure to expedite the issuance of a license, certificate, or permit for an applicant who is certified or licensed in another state to perform the same profession that is the subject of the application; whose spouse is a member of the armed forces; whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to Tennessee; and who has left employment to accompany the person's spouse to Tennessee. The procedure shall include issuing the applicant a license, certificate, or permit if the licensure requirements in the other state are substantially equivalent to Tennessee's requirements or developing method to authorize the applicant to practice in Tennessee with a temporary permit in accordance with current law (T.C.A. §63-1-142). **Effective May 20, 2011**

Public Chapter 435

Provides that any governmental entity or private business or establishment that provides or offers a place of assembly or entertainment, transportation, lodging, dining, educational, medical or leisure activities or services, or any business or any establishment licensed by the State or any political subdivision thereof, or that is engaged in commerce in this State is strongly encouraged to post a sign indicating that certain information regarding the Tennessee human trafficking resource center hotline is in a location within the establishment that is visible to employees and the general public. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development shall provide the sign authorized by this section on its internet website for entities or establishments to print as needed. **Effective October 1, 2011.**

Public Chapter 630

Continues the Board of Respiratory Care until June 2016. It also revises certain provisions regarding appointments to the board.

Notice to ALL Healthcare PROFESSIONALS LICENSED Under Title 63

On January 1, 2013, a new law, Public Chapter 952, became effective requiring your licensing board to provide electronic notices to you. The law gives you the **option** of being notified electronically of the following: (1) Renewals of license, certification or registration; (2) Any fee increases; (3) Any changes in state law that impact the license holder; and (4) Any board meeting where changes in rules or fees are on the agenda. If you "opt in", the Department of Health will also be able to alert you of critical public health matters impacting the State of Tennessee.

Please visit <https://apps.tn.gov/hlrs/begin.jsp> and complete the registration process to opt in. Once you opt in and provide a current email address, you will begin to receive **ALL** notices electronically rather than through the United States mail. Please note that opting in means your renewal notification will be delivered electronically approximately 45 days in advance of your expiration. The e-notice will direct you to the appropriate webpage to renew. If your profession does not permit you to renew your license online, a paper

renewal will continue to be provided.

Questions? Contact your professional board at
<http://health.state.tn.us/providers.htm>

NOTICE TO LICENSED REGISTERED RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS AND LICENSED CERTIFIED RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

Reminder:

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §63-27-115 and Rule 1330-01-.22 certified and registered respiratory therapists who have an ABG endorsement on their license to perform blood gas analysis *must* hold an active National Board of Respiratory Care (“NBRC”) credential.

Rule Amendment:

Rule 1330-01-.24 Endorsement of Respiratory Therapists to Provide Polysomnographic Services (Third Pathway), was voted on by the Respiratory Care Board to be amended as follows:

Subsection (1)(c)(3) is amended by the addition of four hundred and four (404) hours for certified respiratory therapists and the addition of one hundred fifty-two (152) hours for registered respiratory therapists for proof of completion of the Sleep Center or Sleep Lab Competency Checklist.

The Rule Amendment was approved and became **effective July 25, 2012**. The total time requirements for the polysomnography endorsement will be five hundred and four (504) hours for CRT’s and two hundred fifty-two (252) hours for RRT’s. There is no additional fee associated with the application for this endorsement. The link to the “Application for the Endorsement by the Respiratory Care Board to perform Polysomnographic Services” can be found at:

<http://health.state.tn.us/boards/RC/applications.htm>

If you need additional information please contact the Board’s Administrative Office at 1-800-778-4123 Extension 2535087.

THE SUBMISSION OF POINT-OF-CARE EXEMPTION REQUESTS REGARDING RESPIRATORY THERAPY AND BLOOD GASSES

On a regular basis, the Administrative Office for the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board receives exemption requests for point-of-care testing. There appears to be some confusion regarding what is and what is not point of care testing in regards to Respiratory Therapy and Blood Gasses.

If a Respiratory Therapist performs ABG’s in their hospital department under license from the Respiratory Therapy Board or upon endorsement from the Medical Laboratory Board, this DOES NOT constitute point-of-care testing and there is no need for an exemption request.

If a Respiratory Therapist performs ABG at the bedside, then this is a laboratory test, performed by non-laboratory licensed personnel, outside the clinical laboratory and WOULD REQUIRE an exemption from the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board.

If an exemption is required, the Board Presentation Packet must be composed using the following elements and in the order presented:

1. Title Page (Please include name and address of facility);
Statement of medical need for performance outside a laboratory setting; to include what test(s), when they would be performed, why this test should be performed as a point of care and who will be authorized to perform the test(s).
2. A signature sheet that includes the following information:
 - a) The legible signature of the current medical laboratory director and;
 - b) The legible signature(s) of all personnel who share the authority and responsibility for implementing and maintaining the alternate site procedure(s).
3. A complete procedure written in substantial compliance with NCCLS protocol;
4. Analyte & Methodology with a correlation summary for;
 - a) Any new methodology, and;
 - b) Any change in current methodology.
5. Quality Assurance Protocol(s);
6. Maintenance of records of testing procedures;

7. Protocols for performance & improvement (competency);

Board Notification Process

The Board Presentation Packet must be e-mailed to the Board Administrative Office in the form of an Adobe PDF File. The PDF file must be e-mailed to:

lynda.England@tn.gov

In addition, a printed document of the exemption request with original signatures plus four (4) additional printed copies must be submitted to:

TENNESSEE MEDICAL LABORATORY BOARD

ATTN: LYNDA S. ENGLAND
227 FRENCH LANDING, SUITE 300
HERITAGE PLACE, METROCENTER
NASHVILLE, TN 37247

**(PDF FILES AND PRINTED COPIES
MUST BE IN THE SAME ORDER AS
PREVIOUSLY NOTED)**

Please note the following important information:

1. All exemption requests (PDF and printed copies must be physically in the Board's Administrative Office no later than the end of the business day (M-F, 4:30PM CST/CDT) **thirty** (30) days **prior** to the scheduled Board meeting. All quarterly Board meeting dates are posted on the Health Department and Medical Laboratory Board's web site.
2. **Incomplete** packets may delay the review by the Board and may result in the request being deferred to the next scheduled Board meeting.
3. A facility that has received approval from the Board for instrument/method to be used by identified personnel and/or department(s) for point-of-care testing of an analyte do not have to appear before the Board again to add analytes to the approved instrument/method and may add them by submitting written notification to the Board's Administrative Office. It is only when the facility wants to change or add personnel or department(s) to the previously approved instrument/method that another hearing before the Board is required.
4. Any questions, please call the Administrative Office.

RULES REFERENCE: *Rules for Medical Laboratories 1200-06-03-.16*

TENNESSEE PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Board of Respiratory Care in addition to other enumerated powers and duties has as its purpose to assist in the rehabilitation of impaired practitioners. To that end, the Respiratory Care Board has contracted through the Tennessee Nurse's Foundation with the Tennessee Professional Assistance Program (TnPAP) to offer peer assistance to its practitioners.

The concern is for both the practitioner and the public. It is the mission of TnPAP to assist in the rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals by providing consultation, referral, and monitoring services to facilitate a safe return to practice

Protect your license, your career and your health much more effectively by seeking help **BEFORE** you are confronted in your place of employment, by the police, or investigated by the Tennessee Department of Health. TnPAP serves healthcare professionals impaired by certain mental illnesses, such as anxiety, depression, bipolar, and chemical dependence, including alcoholism.

If you or a healthcare provider you know needs assistance, please review the information available at the TnPAP website, www.tnpap.org.

LICENSURE FEE DECREASE

Rule 1330-01-.06 pursuant to fees was amended by reducing the biennial licensure renewal fee from \$150.00 to \$120.00 **effective October 11, 2012.**

Tennessee Board of Respiratory Care Members

Candace Partee
RRT
Lebanon, TN

Ray Davis
RRT
Jackson, TN

Delmar Mack
RRT, Ed.D
Johnson, TN

Jeffrey McCartney
MD.
Cookeville, TN

John Schario
Hospital Administrator
Johnson City, TN

Gene Gantt
RRT
Livingston, TN

Board Staff

Marva Swann
Board Director

Mary Webb
Board Administrator

Patricia Monyei
Licensing Technician