

**MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE
ADVISORY ON CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

The purpose of this advisory is to inform all licensed respiratory therapists in the Commonwealth of a recent change in the enforcement of the requirement of continuing education for license renewal.

The Board has opined that the goal of continuing education is to improve the delivery of health care to the public by ensuring appropriate, ongoing activities to enhance the knowledge and skills of respiratory therapists. The Board regulation at 261 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 5.02 requires all licensed respiratory therapists to obtain 15 contact hours of continuing education for each license renewal cycle, no more than 6 of which may be obtained by correspondence courses and no more than 4 of which may be obtained by passing a recertification examination.

After careful consideration, the Board determined that licensed respiratory therapists may fulfill their obligation to obtain 15 contact hours of continuing education in any reasonable manner including, but not limited to, academic courses, live seminars, correspondence courses and on-line (internet) courses as well as recertification examinations. Each course or activity must meet the requirements of 261 CMR 5.04 "Criteria for Qualification of Continuing Education Activities/Programs."

For example, continuing education programs approved by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) or the Massachusetts Society of Respiratory Care (MSRC) meet regulatory requirements

Dated: June 16, 2015