

Board of Respiratory Care

Survey Result on CPAP/BiPAP Administration in the Home

The Board of Respiratory Care conducted a survey to solicit feedback from a diverse group of Stakeholders on the topic of CPAP/BiPAP administration and therapeutic use. The Board was interested in the Stakeholders' opinion on how the public's health, safety, and welfare may be affected by any change in current respiratory care regulations that would allow non-credentialed or unlicensed individuals with employer-based training to setup, initiate, and administer CPAP and/or BiPAP in a home care setting.

On January 2, 2015, the survey questions were forwarded to representatives of organizations who were encouraged to disseminate the survey to interested Stakeholders and posted on the Board's website. The Board requested that Stakeholders submit their responses via email, facsimile, and mail by January 23, 2015. Stakeholders were asked to answer the following five questions:

1. In your opinion, do the statutory and regulatory definitions of "respiratory care", as currently written (see below), encompass the therapeutic use of CPAP and/or BiPAP?
2. In your opinion, from a health, safety, and welfare perspective, is the initiation, administration and evaluation of CPAP and/or BiPAP therapy to patients comparable to the practices currently written in 261 C.M.R. 2.05 (see below) that are exempt from respiratory care licensure requirements?
3. If individuals were authorized to initiate, administer and educate home care patients in the use of a CPAP and/or BiPAP device, what level of training do you believe would be required in order to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare is maintained?
 - a. On-the-job training by a durable medical equipment provider
 - b. Exposure to a standardized curriculum approved by an accredited institution
 - c. Other (Please feel free to elaborate upon your choice above or otherwise offering clarification to your response to this question)
4. In your view, are there any risks to the health, safety, and/or welfare of consumers of respiratory care, if the setup, initiation, and assessment of non-invasive ventilation (BiPaP) or CPAP are performed by a person who has not completed an accredited program?
5. In your opinion, what constitutes a "clinical assessment" with regard to the setup, initiation, and efficacy of CPAP and/or BiPAP as part of respiratory care services inclusive of a home care setting?

The Board received 85 responses at the close of the survey period and reviewed the responses at its March 17, 2015 and April 21, 2015 meetings.

After reviewing the survey results, the Board reaffirms its initial opinion that the public's health, safety, and welfare would be better served if the Board's regulations remain without changes and a licensed respiratory therapist is required for the setup, initiation, and administration CPAP and/or BiPAP in a home care setting.

Date: August 18, 2015