

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

October 8, 2019
1:00 p.m. Central Time
Nebraska State Office Building – Lower Level B
301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska

The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on proposed changes to Title 172, Chapter 162 of the Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) – *Licensure of Respiratory Care*. The proposed changes remove all duplicative statutory language from the regulations and removes any repetitive regulatory language that is found in 172 NAC 10. The proposed changes also update definitions; clarify unprofessional conduct; and update formatting.

Authority for these regulations is found in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-3117(7).

Interested persons may attend the hearing and provide verbal or written comments or mail, fax or email written comments, no later than the day of the hearing to: DHHS Legal Services, PO Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509-5026, (402) 742-2382 or dhhs.regulations@nebraska.gov, respectively.

A copy of the proposed changes is available online at <http://www.sos.ne.gov>, or by contacting DHHS at the mailing address or email above, or by phone at (402) 471-8417. The fiscal impact statement for these proposed changes may be obtained at the office of the Secretary of State, Regulations Division, 1201 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508, or by calling (402) 471-2385.

Auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations needed to participate in a hearing can be requested by calling (402) 471-8417. Individuals with hearing impairments may call DHHS at (402) 471-9570 (voice and TDD) or the Nebraska Relay System at 711 or (800) 833-7352 TDD at least 2 weeks prior to the hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services	
Title:172	Prepared by:Claire Covert-ByBee
Chapter:162	Date prepared: 06/06/2019
Subject: Respiratory Care	Telephone: 402-471-0547

Type of Fiscal Impact:

	State Agency	Political Sub.	Regulated Public
No Fiscal Impact	(<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)	(<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)	(<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)
Increased Costs	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)
Decreased Costs	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)
Increased Revenue	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)
Decreased Revenue	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)
Indeterminable	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)	(<input type="checkbox"/>)

Provide an Estimated Cost & Description of Impact:

State Agency:

Political Subdivision:

Regulated Public:

If indeterminable, explain why:

TITLE 172 _____ PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

CHAPTER 162 _____ LICENSURE OF RESPIRATORY CARE

~~162-001 SCOPE AND AUTHORITY: These regulations govern the credentialing of Respiratory Care under Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-3201 to 38-3216 and the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA).~~

~~162-002 DEFINITIONS~~

~~Act means Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-3201 to 38-3216, known as the Respiratory Care Practice Act.~~

~~Active addiction means current physical or psychological dependence on alcohol or a substance, which develops following the use of alcohol or a substance on a periodic or continuing basis.~~

~~Alcohol or substance abuse means a maladaptive pattern of alcohol or substance use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress as manifested by one or more of the following occurring at any time during the same 12-month period:~~

- ~~1. Recurrent alcohol or substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home;~~
- ~~2. Recurrent alcohol or substance use in situations in which it is physically hazardous;~~
- ~~3. Recurrent legal problems related to alcohol or substance use; or~~
- ~~4. Continued alcohol or substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the alcohol or substance use.~~

~~Approved training program means a respiratory therapy education program which is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care.~~

~~Attest or Attestation means that the individual declares that all statements on the application are true and complete.~~

~~Board means the Board of Respiratory Care Practice.~~

~~Complete application means an application that contains all the information requested on the application with attestation to its truth and completeness, and that is submitted with the required fees and all required documentation.~~

~~Confidential information means information protected as privileged under applicable law.~~

~~Consumer means a person receiving health or health-related services or environmental services and includes a patient, client, resident, customer, or person with a similar designation.~~

~~Continuing education means the offering of instruction or information to license holders for the purpose of maintaining skills necessary to the safe and competent practice of respiratory care. Continuing education may be offered under such names as "scientific school", "clinic", "forum", "lecture", or "educational seminar".~~

~~Conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere or non vult contendere made to a formal criminal charge, or a judicial finding of guilt irrespective of the pronouncement of judgment or the suspension thereof, and includes instances in which the imposition or the execution of sentence is suspended following a judicial finding of guilt and the defendant is placed on probation.~~

~~Course of study means a program of instruction necessary to obtain a credential meeting the requirements set out for each profession in the appropriate practice act and rules and regulations and includes a college, a professional school, a vocational school, hours of training, or a program of instruction with a similar designation.~~

~~Credential means a license, certificate, or registration.~~

~~Department means the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.~~

~~Dependence means a maladaptive pattern of alcohol or substance use, leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as manifested by three or more of the following occurring at any time in the same 12-month period:~~

- ~~1. Tolerance as defined by either of the following:
 - ~~a. A need for markedly increased amounts of alcohol or the substance to achieve intoxication or desired effect; or~~
 - ~~b. A markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of alcohol or the substance;~~~~
- ~~2. Withdrawal as manifested by either of the following:
 - ~~a. The characteristic withdrawal syndrome for alcohol or the substance as referred to in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association; or~~
 - ~~b. Alcohol or the same substance or a closely related substance is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms;~~~~
- ~~3. Alcohol or the substance is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended;~~
- ~~4. A persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control alcohol or substance use;~~
- ~~5. A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain alcohol or the substance, to use alcohol or the substance; or to recover from the effects of use of alcohol or the substance;~~

- ~~6. Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of alcohol or substance use; or~~
- ~~7. Alcohol or substance use continues despite knowledge of having had a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that was likely to have been caused or exacerbated by alcohol or the substance.~~

~~Director means the Director of Public Health of the Division of Public Health or his/her designee.~~

~~Inactive credential means a credential which the credential holder has voluntarily placed on inactive status and by which action has terminated the right to practice or represent him/herself as having an active credential.~~

~~License means an authorization issued by the Department to an individual to engage in a profession or to a business to provide services which would otherwise be unlawful in this state in the absence of such authorization.~~

~~Licensure examination means the National Board for Respiratory Care Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) Examination or the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Examination approved by the Department on the recommendation of the Board.~~

~~Military service means full-time duty in the active military service of the United States, a National Guard call to active service for more than 30 consecutive days, or active service as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Military service may also include any period during which a servicemember is absent from duty on account of sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause. (From the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2007.)~~

~~NAC means the Nebraska Administrative Code, the system for classifying State agency rules and regulations. These regulations are 172 NAC 162.~~

~~Official means issued by and under the original seal of the issuing agency.~~

~~Pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct means a continued course of incompetent or negligent conduct in performing the duties of the profession.~~

~~Provider means an individual or sponsoring organization that presents continuing education programs to license holders.~~

~~Profession means any profession or occupation named in subsection (1) or (2) of Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-121.~~

~~Respiratory Care means the health specialty responsible for the treatment, management, diagnostic testing, control, and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities associated with the cardiopulmonary system. Respiratory care will not be limited to a hospital setting and will include the therapeutic and diagnostic use of medical gases, administering apparatus, humidification and aerosols, ventilatory assistance and ventilatory control, postural drainage, chest physiotherapy and breathing exercises, respiratory rehabilitation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and maintenance of nasal or oral endotracheal tubes. It will also include the~~

~~administration of aerosol and inhalant medications to the cardiorespiratory system and specific testing techniques employed in respiratory care to assist in diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, and research. Such techniques will include, but not be limited to, measurement of ventilatory volumes, pressures, and flows, measurement of physiologic partial pressures, pulmonary function testing, and hemodynamic and other related physiological monitoring of the cardiopulmonary system.~~

~~Respiratory care practitioner means:~~

- ~~1. Any person employed in the practice of respiratory care who has the knowledge and skill necessary to administer respiratory care to patients of all ages with varied cardiopulmonary diseases and to patients in need of critical care and who is capable of serving as a resource to the physician and other health professionals in relation to the technical aspects of respiratory care including effective and safe methods for administering respiratory care; and~~
- ~~2. A person capable of supervising, directing, or teaching less skilled personnel in the provision of respiratory care services.~~

~~Scaled score means a qualitative interpretive score which is a function of performance.~~

~~Served in the regular armed forces has the same meaning as "military service" in these regulations.~~

~~162-003 INITIAL CREDENTIAL~~

~~162-003.01 Qualifications:~~

~~162-003.01A To receive a credential to practice respiratory care, an individual must meet the following qualifications:~~

- ~~1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;~~
- ~~2. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States.~~
- ~~3. Education: Have completed an approved training program; and~~
- ~~4. Examination: Have passed the licensure examination with a minimum score of 75 on a scaled score ranging from 1 to 99.~~

~~162-003.01B Other Proof of Competency:~~

- ~~1. For applicants who have met requirements as listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01A, who passed the examination more than three years prior to the time of application, and who are not practicing at the time of application, the applicant must within the three years immediately preceding the application, present proof of at least 60 hours of acceptable continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 162-006.01A through 162-006.01D with a minimum of 15 hours in~~

each of the following categories:

- a. Pharmacology;
- b. Mechanical ventilation;
- c. Non-invasive ventilation support; and
- d. Practice of respiratory care.

2. For applicants who have an active license in another jurisdiction, but are not practicing at the time of application, the applicant must meet the requirements listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01A, and provide proof of a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 162-006.01A through 162-006.01D within the three years immediately preceding the application.

~~162-003.01C~~ An applicant who, on or before July 17, 1986, passed the Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician or Registered Respiratory Therapist examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care or the appropriate accrediting agency acceptable to the Board and meets the requirements as listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01A items 1 and 2 will be issued a license to perform respiratory care.

~~162-003.02~~ Application: To apply for a credential to practice respiratory care, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application:

a. Personal Information:

- (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
- (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
- (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
- (5) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
 - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#"); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
- (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code (optional);
- (7) The applicant's e-mail address (optional);
- (8) The applicant's fax number (optional);
- (9) Citizenship: The applicant must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (a) A citizen of the United States;

- (b) ~~An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or~~
- (c) ~~A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;~~
- b. ~~Practice in Nebraska Before Application:~~ The applicant must state:
 - (1) ~~That s/he has not practiced respiratory care in Nebraska before submitting the application; or~~
 - (2) ~~If s/he has practiced respiratory care in Nebraska before submitting the application, the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska before submitting the application for a credential and the name and location of practice;~~
- c. ~~Attestation:~~ The applicant must attest that:
 - (1) ~~S/he has read the application or has had the application read to him/her;~~
 - (2) ~~All statements on the application are true and complete;~~
 - (3) ~~S/he is of good character;~~
 - (4) ~~S/he has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial under 172 NAC 162-008 or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and~~
 - (5) ~~For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114, s/he is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation upon request.~~
- 2. ~~Documentation:~~ The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:
 - a. ~~Evidence of age, such as:~~
 - (1) ~~Driver's license;~~
 - (2) ~~Birth certificate;~~
 - (3) ~~Marriage license that provides date of birth;~~
 - (4) ~~Transcript that provides date of birth;~~
 - (5) ~~U.S. State identification card;~~
 - (6) ~~Military identification; or~~
 - (7) ~~Other similar documentation;~~
 - b. ~~Evidence of good character, including:~~
 - (1) ~~Other Credential Information:~~ If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the name of state(s), credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed. The applicant must have the licensing agency submit to the Department a

- ~~certification of his/her credential;~~
- ~~(2) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;~~
- ~~(3) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take an examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial;~~
- ~~(4) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, the applicant must submit to the Department:
 - ~~(a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;~~
 - ~~(b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~(c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the convictions;~~
 - ~~(d) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;~~
 - ~~(e) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and~~
 - ~~(f) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;~~~~
- ~~c. Evidence that the applicant is:
 - ~~(1) A citizen;~~
 - ~~(2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or~~
 - ~~(3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;~~~~
- ~~d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
 - ~~(1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);~~
 - ~~(2) A birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;~~
 - ~~(3) An American Indian Card (I-872);~~
 - ~~(4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);~~
 - ~~(5) A Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);~~
 - ~~(6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);~~
 - ~~(7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240);~~~~

- ~~(8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);~~
- ~~(9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);~~
- ~~(10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);~~
- ~~(11) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");~~
- ~~(12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;~~
- ~~(13) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or~~
- ~~(14) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;~~
- ~~e. Documentation of education, including:~~
 - ~~(1) Name and date of diploma/degree awarded;~~
 - ~~(2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the diploma/degree; and~~
 - ~~(3) Official transcript showing completion of an approved training program.~~
- ~~f. Documentation of examination, including:~~
 - ~~(1) Name of examination;~~
 - ~~(2) Date of examination; and~~
 - ~~(3) Official documentation of passing the licensure examination and the score achieved on the examination;~~
- ~~g. Documentation of Licensure in another Jurisdiction, including~~
 - ~~(a) Certification from the other jurisdiction (s) verifying licensure, including:~~
 - ~~(b) Date of initial licensure;~~
 - ~~(c) The name of the examination on which licensure was based;~~
 - ~~(d) The score attained on the examination;~~
 - ~~(e) Date of the examination;~~
 - ~~(f) Name of accredited program from which the applicant graduated;~~
 - ~~(g) The nature of disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the applicant's credential.~~
 - ~~(2) The applicant must request that the certification from another jurisdiction be sent directly to the Department from the appropriate State Board office; and~~
 - ~~(3) The applicant must:~~
 - ~~(a) Attest whether s/he is practicing at the time of application; and~~
 - ~~(b) Provide the dates and locations of practice; and~~
- ~~h. Documentation of continuing competency if s/he meets the conditions listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01B item 1: Submit certificates of attendance verifying the 60 hours of continuing education.~~
- ~~i. Documentation of continuing competency if licensed in another jurisdiction but not practicing: Submit certificates of attendance verifying the 20 hours of continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 162-003.01B item 2.~~

3. ~~Fee:~~ The applicant must submit the required license fee along with the application and all required documentation.

~~162-003.02A Prorated Fee:~~ When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

~~162-003.03 Department Review:~~ The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for initial credentialing.

~~162-003.04 Denial of Initial Credential:~~ If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 162-008.01, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

~~162-003.05 Withdrawn Applications:~~ An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

~~162-003.06 Practice Prior to Credential:~~ An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

~~162-003.07 Confidentiality:~~ Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

~~162-003.08 Address Information:~~ Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

~~162-003.09 Non-English Documents:~~ Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

~~162-004 EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY:~~ An applicant is eligible to take the licensure examination if s/he meets the educational requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 162-003.01A item 3.

~~162-005 EXEMPTION FROM LICENSURE:~~ A registered polysomnographic technologist may perform oxygen therapy or the initiation of noninvasive positive pressure ventilation relating to the study of sleep disorders, without obtaining a respiratory care license. These procedures may only be performed or initiated under the supervision of a licensed physician at a facility accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. A registered polysomnographic technologist means a person who is registered by the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists, certified by the National Commission of Certifying Agencies.

~~162-006 CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS:~~ Each person holding an active Nebraska credential must, on or before the date of expiration of the credential, comply with the continuing competency requirements for his/her profession, unless the requirements are waived in accordance with 172 NAC 162-007.03 and 172 NAC 162-007.04. Each credentialed individual is responsible for maintaining certificates or records of continuing competency activities.

~~162-006.01 Continuing Competency Requirements:~~ On or before June 1, of each even numbered year, each respiratory care practitioner who is holding an active credential must:

- ~~1. Complete 20 hours of acceptable continuing education as specified in 172 NAC 162-006.01A during the preceding 24 month period to renew a license; and~~
- ~~2. Be responsible for maintaining until the next renewal period:
 - ~~a. Documentation of attendance at, or participation in, continuing education programs/activities as follows:
 - ~~(1) American Association of Respiratory Care Continuing Education Summary; or~~
 - ~~(2) Signed certificate; and~~
 - ~~(3) Course brochure, course outline, or course content.~~~~
 - ~~b. Documentation of presenting a continuing education program if the licensee is presenting a program. Documentation must include the following:
 - ~~(1) Course outline;~~
 - ~~(2) Brochure of course; and~~
 - ~~(3) Statement of instructor's qualification to teach the course, unless the qualifications are included in the brochure.~~~~~~

~~162-006.01A Acceptable Programs/Activities:~~ The Board does not pre-approve continuing education programs but will accept for renewal or reinstatement of a license, the continuing education program/activities related to the practice of respiratory care therapy or clinical application as specified in 172 NAC 16-006,01B and that are open to all licensees. The continuing education program/activity may focus on:

- ~~1. Research;~~

- ~~_____ 2. Treatment;~~
- ~~_____ 3. Documentation;~~
- ~~_____ 4. Management; or~~
- ~~_____ 5. Education~~

~~162-006.01B The Board will accept as continuing education for renewal of a license or reinstatement of a license the following learning experiences to include:~~

~~_____ 1. Programs at State and National association meetings which relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care;~~

~~_____ 2. Formal education courses/presentations in which the:~~

- ~~_____ a. Courses or presentations are formally organized and planned instructional experiences;~~
- ~~_____ b. Courses have a date, location, course title, number of contact hours, signed certificate of attendance, and are open to all licensees;~~
- ~~_____ c. The Objectives relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care; and~~
- ~~_____ d. Instructor has specialized experience or training to meet the objectives of the course.~~

~~_____ 3. University or college sponsored courses relating to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care. A licensee must provide documentation of successfully completing the course and include an official transcript, and a program outline and/or objectives;~~

~~_____ 4. Home study where the content of the home study activity relates to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care whether the subject is research, treatment, documentation, education, or management, for example, videotapes, internet courses, and/or correspondence courses). The program must have a testing mechanism scored by the named study provider. A licensee's documentation must include a certificate of completion, and a program outline and/or objectives;~~

~~_____ 5. Management courses which relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care. A respiratory care practitioner may complete a maximum of four hours of continuing education utilizing management courses each 24 month renewal period. A licensee's documentation must include a certificate of attendance and a program outline and/or objectives;~~

~~_____ 6. Nationally recognized specialty certification examinations. A licensee will earn contact hours for successful completion of nationally recognized specialty certification examinations related to an area of specialty practice in the field of respiratory care each~~

~~24 month~~ renewal period. A licensee's documentation must include a copy of ~~the~~ certification that shows the date of the examination. Continuing ~~education~~ hours will be awarded as follows:

- ~~a. Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT), ten hours of continuing education;~~
- ~~b. Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT), ten hours of continuing education;~~
- ~~c. Neonatal Pediatric Specialist (NPS), ten hours of continuing education;~~
- ~~d. Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT), ten hours of continuing education; and~~
- ~~e. Registered Respiratory Therapist (written and clinical simulation examinations), 15 hours of continuing education;~~

~~7. Basic cardiac life support or advanced cardiac life support for adults and pediatric or neonatal courses.~~

- ~~a. Maximum of one hour credit for the Basic Cardiac Life Support course during each 24 month renewal period;~~
- ~~b. Maximum of 12 hours credit for initial ACLS certification course or six hours credit for re-certification during each 24 month renewal period;~~
- ~~c. Maximum of eight hours credit for initial Neonatal Advanced Life Support certification course or four hours credit for recertification during each 24 month renewal period;~~
- ~~d. Maximum of 12 hours credit for Pediatric Advanced Life Support certification course or six hours credit for recertification during each 24 month renewal period;~~

~~8. Inservices that meet the requirements for formal education as outlined in 172 NAC 162-006.01B item 2 that cover:~~

- ~~a. Therapeutic respiratory care procedures; or~~
- ~~b. Respiratory care equipment.~~

~~162-006.01C One hour credit will be awarded for each hour of attendance. Credit will not be awarded for breaks or meals.~~

~~162-006.01D One hour credit will be awarded for each hour of scientific presentation by a licensee acting as an essayist or lecturer to licensed respiratory care practitioners if the program relates to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to respiratory care. A licensee may receive continuing education credit for only the initial presentation during a renewal period, with a maximum of four hours of continuing education for presentations in a 24 month renewal period.~~

~~Presenters may not receive any more hours of credit for a continuing education activity than an attendee can receive as outlined in 172 NAC 162-006.01B.~~

~~162-006.01E Non-acceptable Continuing Education: Continuing education credit will not be awarded for programs that do not relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care including but not limited to:~~

- ~~1. Business communications and operations;~~
- ~~2. Medical terminology and language courses;~~
- ~~3. Courses which deal with personal self-improvement, financial gain, or career options;~~
- ~~4. Courses designed for lay persons;~~
- ~~5. Teaching unlicensed or uncertified persons, conducting research, or publications, or any preparation for same;~~
- ~~6. Respiratory care on-the-job training;~~
- ~~7. Respiratory care orientation programs or staff meetings, including orientation to new policies, non-therapeutic procedures, equipment, forms, responsibilities, services, etc;~~
- ~~8. Presentation made by students; or~~
- ~~9. Participation in or attendance at case conferences, grand rounds, or informal presentations.~~

~~162-007 RENEWAL: An individual who wants to renew his/her respiratory care credential must request renewal as specified in 172 NAC 162-007.02. All respiratory care credentials issued by the Department will expire on June 1 of each even-numbered year.~~

~~162-007.01 Renewal Notice: At least 30 days before the expiration of a credential, the Department will notify each credential holder by regular mail at the last known address of record. The renewal notice will include:~~

- ~~1. The type of credential;~~
- ~~2. The credential number;~~
- ~~3. The expiration date;~~
- ~~4. Continuing competency requirements for renewal;~~
- ~~5. The amount of the renewal fee; and~~
- ~~6. Information on how to request renewal and how to place a credential on inactive status.~~

~~162-007.02 Renewal Procedures: The request for renewal may be submitted in person or by mail or Internet, and must include all required documentation and the renewal fee, which must be paid no later than the expiration date. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application.~~

~~1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant, in his/her application:~~

- ~~a. Must provide the following information:
 - ~~(1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;~~~~

- (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
 - (3) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN); or
 - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#) or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number; Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both;
 - b. Must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (1) A citizen of the United States;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;
 - c. May provide the following information about him/herself:
 - (1) The applicant's telephone number including area code;
 - (2) The applicant's e-mail address; and
 - (3) The applicant's fax number;
 - d. Must indicate that s/he:
 - (1) Is of good character;
 - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements as specified in 172 NAC 162-006 or has requested a waiver if s/he meets the requirements of 172 NAC 162-007.03 and/or 172 NAC 162-007.04;
 - (3) Has not, since the last renewal of the credential, committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 162-008.01, or if any act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of such acts; and
 - (4) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS documentation upon request.
2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:
- a. Alien or Non-Immigrant: Evidence of lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
 - (1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#")

- with visa status; or
- (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- b. ~~Other Credential Information:~~ If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the name of the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed;
- c. ~~Disciplinary Action:~~ A list of any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
- d. ~~Denial:~~ If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take a credentialing examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial;
- e. ~~Conviction Information:~~ If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor since his/her last renewal or during the time period since initial credentialing if such occurred within the previous two years, the applicant must submit to the Department:
- (1) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (2) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
 - (3) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the convictions;
 - (4) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
 - (5) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
 - (6) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;

3. ~~The renewal fee according to 172 NAC 2.~~

~~162-007.03 Waivers for Military Service:~~ A credential holder who has served in the regular armed forces of the United States during part of the credentialing period immediately preceding the renewal date, or is actively engaged in military service as defined in 172 NAC 162-002 is not required to pay the renewal fee or to meet the continuing competency requirements if acceptable documentation is submitted to the Department. The individual must document his/her military service by submitting to the Department:

1. ~~Military identification proving that s/he is in active service;~~
2. ~~Military orders; or~~
3. ~~A letter from his/her Commanding Officer indicating that s/he is on~~

active duty.

Upon receipt of acceptable documentation, the Department will waive the fee and the continuing competency requirements and renew the credential. The credential will remain active until the next renewal period.

~~162-007.04 Waiver of Continuing Competency Requirements:~~ The Department waives continuing competency requirements for individuals who were first credentialed within the 24-month period immediately preceding the renewal date.

~~162-007.04A~~ The Department may waive continuing competency requirements, in whole or in part, upon submission by a credential holder of documentation that circumstances beyond his/her control have prevented completion of these requirements. These circumstances may include:

- ~~1.~~ If the licensee has suffered from a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required number of hours of continuing competency requirements during the 24 months preceding the license renewal date, s/he must submit a statement from a treating physician(s) stating that the licensee was injured or ill, the duration of the illness or injury and of the recovery period, and that the licensee was unable to obtain continuing competency requirements during that period; and
- ~~2.~~ Other circumstances beyond the licensee's control prevented completion of the continuing competency requirements.

~~162-007.05 Audit of Continuing Competency Requirements:~~ The Department or the Board may biennially select, in a random manner, a sample of the renewal applications for audit of continuing competency requirements. Each credential holder selected for audit must produce documentation of the continuing competency activities.

~~162-007.05A~~ The Department will notify each selected credential holder by mail. Failure to notify the Department of a current mailing address will not absolve the credential holder from the requirement for audit.

~~162-007.05B~~ Within 30 days, each selected credential holder must respond by submitting documentation that s/he has met the requirements for continuing competency. An extension beyond 30 days for submission of the documentation may be granted at the discretion of the Department. Documentation submitted by the credential holder will not be returned.

~~162-007.05C~~ Acceptable documentation that the credential holder has met the continuing competency requirements include:

- ~~1.~~ Course outline;
- ~~2.~~ Brochure of course; and
- ~~3.~~ Statement of instructor's qualification to teach the course, unless the qualifications are included in the brochure.

~~162-007.05D~~ The Department/Board will review the submitted documentation to determine if the credential holder has met the requirements for continuing competency activities for renewal of the credential. Only documented activities/hours that meet the continuing competency requirements will be counted toward the total requirements for renewal.

~~162-007.05E~~ The Department will notify the credential holder upon satisfactory completion of the audit.

~~162-007.05F~~ The credential of any person who fails to comply with the conditions of the audit will expire 30 days after notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

~~162-007.05G~~ The Board reserves the right to audit continuing competency requirements of any credential holder by notifying the credential holder and requesting that s/he produce the required documentation of attendance at or participation in acceptable continuing competency programs within 30 days of mailing.

~~162-007.06~~ Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for renewal.

~~162-007.06A~~ False Information: The Department may refuse to renew a credential for falsification of any information submitted for renewal of a credential. The refusal will be made according to 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

~~162-007.07~~ Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

~~162-007.08~~ Expiration of a Credential: A credential expires if a credential holder fails to:

1. Notify the Department that s/he wants to place his/her credential on inactive status upon its expiration;
2. Meet the requirements for renewal on or before the date of expiration of his/her credential; or
3. Otherwise fails to renew his/her credential.

~~162-007.08A~~ Failure to Renew: A credential automatically expires without further notice or opportunity for hearing if a credential holder fails by the expiration date of the credential to:

1. Submit documentation of continuing competency; or
2. Pay the required renewal fee.

~~162-007.08B~~ Failure to Meet Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department will refuse to renew a credential, after notice and opportunity for hearing, if a credential holder fails to meet the continuing competency

~~requirements for renewal by the expiration date of the credential.~~

~~162-007.08C Right to Practice: When an individual's credential expires, the right to represent him/herself as a credential holder and to practice respiratory care terminates.~~

~~162-007.08D Practice After Expiration: An individual who practices after expiration of his/her credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 162-011 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~162-007.08E Reinstatement of an Expired Credential: If a credential holder wants to resume the practice of respiratory care after failing to renew his/her credential by the expiration date, s/he must apply to the Department for reinstatement as specified in 172 NAC 162-010.~~

~~162-007.09 Inactive Status: When an individual wants to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, s/he must notify the Department in writing. There is no fee to have a credential placed on inactive status and continuing competency is not required.~~

~~162-007.09A Request for Inactive Status: When the Department has received notification that an individual wants to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, the Department will notify the credential holder in writing of the acceptance or denial of the request.~~

~~162-007.09B Placement on Inactive Status: When an individual's credential is placed on inactive status, the credential holder must not engage in the practice of respiratory care, but may represent him/herself as having an inactive credential.~~

~~162-007.09C Return to Active Status: A credential may remain on inactive status for an indefinite period of time. An individual who wants to have his/her credential returned to active status must apply to the Department for reinstatement and meet the requirements specified in 172 NAC 162-010.~~

162-008 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

~~162-008.01 Grounds for Action Against a Credential: A credential to practice a profession may have disciplinary actions taken against it on any of the following grounds:~~

- ~~1. Misrepresentation of material facts in procuring or attempting to procure a credential;~~
- ~~2. Immoral or dishonorable conduct evidencing unfitness to practice the profession in this state;~~
- ~~3. Abuse of, dependence on, or active addiction to alcohol, any controlled substance, or any mind-altering substance;~~
- ~~4. Failure to comply with a treatment program or an aftercare program, including, but not limited to, a program entered into under the Licensee~~

~~Assistance Program established pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-175;~~

- ~~5. Conviction of:
 - ~~a. A misdemeanor or felony under Nebraska law or federal law, or~~
 - ~~b. A crime in any jurisdiction which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a misdemeanor or felony under Nebraska law and which has a rational connection with the fitness or capacity of the applicant or credential holder to practice the profession;~~~~
- ~~6. Practice of the profession:
 - ~~a. Fraudulently;~~
 - ~~b. Beyond its authorized scope;~~
 - ~~c. With gross incompetence or gross negligence; or~~
 - ~~d. In a pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct;~~~~
- ~~7. Practice of the profession while the ability to practice is impaired by alcohol, controlled substances, drugs, mind-altering substances, physical disability, mental disability, or emotional disability;~~
- ~~8. Physical or mental incapacity to practice the profession as evidenced by a legal judgment or a determination by other lawful means;~~
- ~~9. Illness, deterioration, or disability that impairs the ability to practice the profession;~~
- ~~10. Permitting, aiding, or abetting the practice of a profession or the performance of activities requiring a credential by a person not credentialed to do so;~~
- ~~11. Having had his/her credential denied, refused renewal, limited, suspended, revoked, or disciplined in any manner similar to 172 NAC 162-008.05 by another state or jurisdiction based upon acts by the applicant or credential holder similar to acts described in this part;~~
- ~~12. Use of untruthful, deceptive, or misleading statements in advertisements;~~
- ~~13. Conviction of fraudulent or misleading advertising or conviction of a violation of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act;~~
- ~~14. Distribution of intoxicating liquors, controlled substances, or drugs for any other than lawful purposes;~~
- ~~15. Violations of the Uniform Credentialing Act or the rules and regulations relating to the particular profession;~~
- ~~16. Unlawful invasion of the field of practice of any profession regulated by the Uniform Credentialing Act which the credential holder is not credentialed to practice;~~
- ~~17. Violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act or any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the act;~~
- ~~18. Failure to file a report required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-1,124 or 38-1,125;~~
- ~~19. Failure to maintain the requirements necessary to obtain a credential;~~
- ~~20. Violation of an order issued by the Department;~~
- ~~21. Violation of an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-1,108;~~
- ~~22. Failure to pay an administrative penalty;~~
- ~~23. Unprofessional conduct as defined in 172 NAC 162-008.02; or~~
- ~~24. Violation of the Automated Medication Systems Act.~~

162-008.02 Unprofessional Conduct: ~~Unprofessional conduct means any departure from~~

or failure to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of a profession or the ethics of the profession, regardless of whether a person, consumer, or entity is injured, but does not include a single act of ordinary negligence. Unprofessional conduct also means conduct that is likely to deceive or defraud the public or is detrimental to the public interest. Unprofessional conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. ~~Receipt of fees on the assurance that an incurable disease can be permanently cured;~~
2. ~~Division of fees, or agreeing to split or divide the fees, received for professional services with any person for bringing or referring a consumer other than:
 - a. ~~With a partner or employee of the applicant or credential holder or his/her office or clinic;~~
 - b. ~~With a landlord of the applicant or credential holder pursuant to a written agreement that provides for payment of rent based on gross receipts;~~
 - c. ~~With a former partner or employee of the applicant or credential holder based on a retirement plan or separation agreement; or~~
 - d. ~~By a person credentialed pursuant to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act.~~~~
3. ~~Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, falsification of third-party claim documents;~~
4. ~~Cheating on or attempting to subvert the credentialing examination;~~
5. ~~Assisting in the care or treatment of a consumer without the consent of the consumer or his/her legal representative;~~
6. ~~Use of any letters, words, or terms, either as a prefix, affix, or suffix, on stationery, in advertisements, or otherwise, indicating that the person is entitled to practice a profession for which s/he is not credentialed;~~
7. ~~Performing, procuring, or aiding and abetting in the performance or procurement of a criminal abortion;~~
8. ~~Knowingly disclosing confidential information except as otherwise permitted by law;~~
9. ~~Commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation related to the practice of the profession of the applicant or credential holder;~~
10. ~~Failure to keep and maintain adequate records of treatment or service;~~
11. ~~Prescribing, administering, distributing, dispensing, giving, or selling any controlled substance or other drug recognized as addictive or dangerous for other than a medically accepted therapeutic purpose;~~
12. ~~Prescribing any controlled substance to:
 - a. ~~Oneself; or~~
 - b. ~~Except in the case of a medical emergency;
 - (1) ~~One's spouse;~~
 - (2) ~~One's child;~~
 - (3) ~~One's parent;~~
 - (4) ~~One's sibling; or~~
 - (5) ~~Any other person living in the same household as the prescriber;~~~~~~

- ~~13. Failure to comply with any federal, state, or municipal law, ordinance, rule, or regulation that pertains to the applicable profession;~~
- ~~14. Disruptive behavior, whether verbal or physical, which interferes with consumer care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the care; and~~
- ~~15. The following acts which include but are not limited to:
 - ~~a. Competence:
 - ~~(1) A respiratory care practitioner must not provide services for which s/he is not trained or experienced;~~
 - ~~(2) Encouraging or promoting respiratory care by untrained or unqualified persons; and~~
 - ~~(3) Committing any act which endangers patient safety or welfare.~~~~
 - ~~b. Confidentiality: A respiratory care practitioner must hold in confidence information obtained from a patient, except in those unusual circumstances in which to do so would result in clear danger to the person or to others, or where otherwise required by law.~~
 - ~~c. Professional Relationships: A respiratory care practitioner must safeguard the welfare of patients and maintain appropriate professional relationships with patients. Commission of any of the following acts or behavior constitutes unprofessional conduct:
 - ~~(1) Improper use of another person for one's own advantage;~~
 - ~~(2) Failure to decline to carry out respiratory care services that have been requested when the services are known to be contraindicated or unjustified;~~
 - ~~(3) Failure to decline to carry out procedures that have been requested when such services are known to be outside of the respiratory care practitioner's scope of practice;~~
 - ~~(4) Verbally or physically abusing patients;~~
 - ~~(5) Falsification or unauthorized destruction of patient records;~~
 - ~~(6) Attempting to provide diagnostic or treatment information to patient(s) that is beyond the respiratory care practitioner's level of training and expertise;~~
 - ~~(7) Delegating to other personnel those patient related services when the clinical skills and expertise of a respiratory care practitioner is required.~~~~
 - ~~d. Sexual Harassment: A respiratory care practitioner must not under any circumstances engage in sexual harassment of patients or co-workers.
 - ~~(1) Sexual Harassment includes making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, and engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature as a condition of:
 - ~~(a) The provision or denial of respiratory care to a patient;~~
 - ~~(b) The provision or denial of employment or employment advances to a co-worker;~~
 - ~~(c) For the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating,~~~~~~~~

- hostile, or offensive environment for the patient or unreasonably interfering with a patient's ability to recover; or
- (d) For the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment or unreasonably interfering with the co-worker's ability to perform his/her work;
 - e. — Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
 - f. — Violating an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-1,108;
 - g. — Failure to follow policies or procedures implemented in the practice situation to safeguard patient care;
 - h. — Failure to safeguard the patient's dignity and right to privacy;
 - i. — Failure to exercise appropriate supervision over persons who are authorized to practice only under the supervision of the licensed professional; and
 - j. — Practicing respiratory care in this state without a current Nebraska license; or
 - k. — Failure of a licensee, who is the subject of a disciplinary investigation, _____ to furnish the Board or its investigator with requested information or _____ requested documents.

162-008.03 Temporary Suspension or Limitation

— 162-008.03A — The Department may temporarily suspend or temporarily limit any credential issued by the Department without notice or a hearing if the Director determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that grounds exist under 172 NAC 162-008.01 for the revocation, suspension, or limitation of the credential and that the credential holder's continuation in practice or operation would constitute an imminent danger to the public health and safety. Simultaneously with the action, the Department will institute proceedings for a hearing on the grounds for revocation, suspension, or limitation of the credential. The hearing will be held no later than 15 days from the date of the temporary suspension or temporary limitation of the credential.

— 162-008.03B — A continuance of the hearing will be granted by the Department upon _____ the written request of the credential holder, and the continuance must not exceed 30 days unless waived by the credential holder. A temporary suspension or temporary limitation order by the Director will take effect when served upon the credential holder.

— 162-008.03C — A temporary suspension or temporary limitation of a credential under _____ 172 NAC 162-008.03 will not be in effect for more than 90 days unless waived by the _____ credential holder. If a decision is not reached within 90 days, the credential will be reinstated unless and until the Department reaches a decision to revoke, suspend, or _____ limit the credential or otherwise discipline the credential

holder.

~~162-008.04 Department Action:~~ The Department will follow the procedures delineated in the Uniform Credentialing Act to notify credential holders of any disciplinary action to be imposed and the time and place of the hearing.

~~162-008.05 Sanctions:~~ Upon the completion of any hearing held regarding discipline of a credential, the Director may dismiss the action or impose the following sanctions:

- ~~1. Censure;~~
- ~~2. Probation;~~
- ~~3. Limitation;~~
- ~~4. Civil Penalty;~~
- ~~5. Suspension; or~~
- ~~6. Revocation.~~

~~162-008.05A Additional Terms and Conditions of Discipline:~~ If any discipline is imposed pursuant to 172 NAC 162-008.05, the Director may, in addition to any other terms and conditions of that discipline:

- ~~1. Require the credential holder to obtain additional professional training and to pass an examination upon the completion of the training. The examination may be written or oral or both and may be a practical or clinical examination or both or any or all of the combinations of written, oral, practical, and clinical, at the option of the Director;~~
- ~~2. Require the credential holder to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians or other qualified professionals appointed by the Director. If the Director requires the credential holder to submit to an examination, the Director will receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians or other qualified professionals of the credential holder's choice if the credential holder chooses to make available the report or reports by his/her physician or physicians or other qualified professionals; and~~
- ~~3. Limit the extent, scope, or type of practice of the credential holder.~~

~~162-009 VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OR LIMITATION:~~ A credential holder may offer to voluntarily surrender or limit a credential issued by the Department. The credential holder must make the offer in writing on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the credential holder, which must include the following information:

- ~~1. Personal Information:~~
 - ~~a. First, middle and last name;~~
 - ~~b. Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address), city, state, and zip code;~~
 - ~~c. Telephone number; and~~
 - ~~d. Fax number.~~
- ~~2. Information Regarding the Credential Being Offered for Surrender or Limitation:~~

- a. ~~List credential(s) and credential number(s) that would be surrendered or limited;~~
 - b. ~~Indicate the desired time frame for offered surrender or limitation:
_____ (1) _____ Permanently;
_____ (2) _____ Indefinitely; or
_____ (3) _____ Definite period of time (specify);~~
 - c. ~~Specify reason for offered surrender or limit of credential; and~~
 - d. ~~Specify any terms and conditions that the credential holder wishes to have the Department consider and apply to the offer.~~
3. ~~Attestation: The credential holder must:~~
- a. ~~Attest that all the information on the offer is true and complete; and~~
 - b. ~~Provide the credential holder's signature and date.~~

162-009.01 ~~The Department may accept an offer of voluntary surrender or limitation of a credential based on:~~

1. ~~An offer made by the credential holder on his/her own volition;~~
2. ~~An offer made with the agreement of the Attorney General or the legal counsel of the Department to resolve a pending disciplinary matter;~~
3. ~~A decision by the Attorney General to negotiate a voluntary surrender or limitation in lieu of filing a petition for disciplinary action; or~~
4. ~~A decision by the legal counsel of the Department to negotiate a voluntary surrender or limitation in response to a notice of disciplinary action.~~

162-009.02 ~~The Department may reject an offer of voluntary surrender of a credential under circumstances which include, but are not limited to, when the credential:~~

1. ~~Is under investigation;~~
2. ~~Has a disciplinary action pending but a disposition has not been rendered;
or~~
3. ~~Has had a disciplinary action taken against it.~~

162-009.03 ~~When the Department either accepts or rejects an offer of voluntary surrender or limitation, the Director will issue the decision in a written order. The order will be issued within 30 days after receipt of the offer of voluntary surrender or limitation and will specify:~~

1. ~~Whether the Department accepts or rejects the offer of voluntary surrender;
and~~
2. ~~The terms and conditions under which the voluntary surrender is accepted or the basis for the rejection of an offer of voluntary surrender. The terms and conditions governing the acceptance of a voluntary surrender will include, but not be limited to:
a. ~~Duration of the surrender;~~
b. ~~Whether the credential holder may apply to have the credential reinstated; and~~
c. ~~Any terms and conditions for reinstatement.~~~~

162-009.04 ~~A limitation may be placed on the right of the credential holder to practice a~~

~~profession or operate a business to the extent, for the time, and under the conditions as imposed by the Director.~~

~~162-009.05 Violation of any of the terms and conditions of a voluntary surrender or limitation by the credential holder will be due cause for the refusal of renewal of the credential, for the suspension or revocation of the credential, or for refusal to restore the credential.~~

~~162-009.06 Reinstatement following voluntary surrender is set out in 172 NAC 162-010.~~

~~162-010 REINSTATEMENT: This section applies to individuals previously credentialed in Nebraska who seek the authority to return to practice in Nebraska with a valid Nebraska credential. Individuals may apply for reinstatement as follows:~~

- ~~1. An individual whose credential has expired, been placed on inactive status, voluntarily surrendered for an indefinite period of time, or suspended or limited for disciplinary reasons, may apply for reinstatement at any time.~~
- ~~2. An individual whose credential has been voluntarily surrendered for a definite period of time may apply for reinstatement after that period of time has elapsed.~~
- ~~3. An individual whose credential has been revoked may apply for reinstatement only after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation.~~
- ~~4. An individual whose credential has been permanently voluntarily surrendered may not apply for reinstatement.~~

~~The voluntary surrender of a credential may be unrelated to disciplinary matters, or may be done to resolve a pending disciplinary matter, in lieu of disciplinary action, or in response to a notice of disciplinary action.~~

~~162-010.01 Reinstatement From Expired or Inactive Status or Following Voluntary Surrender Unrelated to a Disciplinary Matter~~

~~The applicant must submit to the Department a written application on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the applicant.~~

- ~~1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant, in his/her application:
 - ~~a. Must provide the following information:
 - ~~(1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;~~
 - ~~(2) Mailing address (street, rural route, a post office address; and city, state, and zip code or country information);~~
 - ~~(3) The applicant's
 - ~~(a) Social Security Number (SSN); or~~
 - ~~(b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or~~
 - ~~(c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.~~~~~~~~

- Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
- (4) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;
- b. Must state that s/he is one of the following:
- (1) A citizen of the United States;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;
- c. If the applicant is an alien or non-immigrant, s/he must submit evidence of lawful permanent residence and/or immigration status which may include a copy of:
- (1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
 - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- d. May provide the following information about him/herself:
- (1) Telephone number including area code;
 - (2) E-mail address;
 - (3) Fax number; and
- e. Must indicate that s/he:
- (1) Is of good character;
 - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in 172 NAC 162-004 within the 24 months immediately preceding submission of the application (or other requirements as specified by the practice act);
 - (3) Has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, or if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, the actual number of days practiced;
 - (4) Has not committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 162-008.01 since the last renewal or issuance of the credential (whichever is later), or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and
 - (5) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 41-08 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS

documentation upon request; and

2. ~~Fee(s):~~ The following fee(s):
 - a. ~~If the credential is expired or inactive, the reinstatement and renewal fees; or~~
 - b. ~~If the credential was voluntarily surrendered, the renewal fee.~~

~~162-010.01A~~ If an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was expired, inactive, or voluntarily surrendered, the Department may, with the recommendation of the Board, take one or more of the following actions:

1. ~~Deny the application to reinstate the credential;~~
2. ~~Reinstate the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other disciplinary actions on the credential; and/or~~
3. ~~Reinstate the credential.~~

~~162-010.01B~~ If an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, the Department may:

1. ~~Deny the application for reinstatement of the credential;~~
2. ~~Reinstate the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other disciplinary actions on the credential; and/or~~
3. ~~Reinstate the credential.~~

~~162-010.01C~~ The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.

~~162-010.01D~~ The Department's decision may be appealed to the Director by any party to the decision. The appeal must be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

~~162-010.02~~ Reinstatement from Non-Disciplinary Revocation or Lapsed Status: An individual whose credential was placed on non-disciplinary revocation or lapsed status before December 1, 2008 may apply for reinstatement as provided in 172 NAC 162-010.01.

~~162-010.03~~ Reinstatement Following Suspension, Limitation, Revocation, or Voluntary Surrender to Resolve a Pending Disciplinary Matter, In Lieu of Discipline, or In Response to a Notice of Disciplinary Action: An individual whose credential was suspended or limited may apply for reinstatement at any time. An individual whose credential has been revoked may apply for reinstatement after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation. An individual whose credential was voluntarily surrendered may apply for reinstatement according to the order entered by the Director.

The applicant must submit to the Board a written application on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the applicant.

1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant in his/her application:

- ~~a. Must provide the following information:
 - ~~(1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;~~
 - ~~(2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code or country information);~~
 - ~~(3) The applicant's
 - ~~(a) Social Security Number (SSN); or~~
 - ~~(b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or~~
 - ~~(c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number. Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.~~~~
 - ~~(4) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
 - ~~(5) A statement of the reason the applicant believes his/her credential should be reinstated;~~~~
- ~~b. Must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - ~~(1) A citizen of the United States;~~
 - ~~(2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or~~
 - ~~(3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;~~~~
- ~~c. If the applicant is an alien or non-immigrant, s/he must submit evidence of lawful permanent residence and/or immigration status which may include a copy of:
 - ~~(1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");~~
 - ~~(2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;~~
 - ~~(3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or~~
 - ~~(4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;~~~~
- ~~d. May provide the following information about him/herself:
 - ~~(1) Telephone number including area code;~~
 - ~~(2) E-mail address;~~
 - ~~(3) Fax number; and~~~~
- ~~e. Must indicate that s/he:
 - ~~(1) Is of good character;~~
 - ~~(2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in 172 NAC 162-004 within the 24 months immediately preceding submission of the application (or other requirements as specified by the practice act);~~
 - ~~(3) Has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active~~~~

~~credential, or if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, the actual number of days practiced;~~

~~(4) Has not committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 162-008.01 since the last renewal or issuance of the credential (whichever is later), or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and~~

~~(5) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS documentation upon request; and~~

~~2. Fee: The renewal fee.~~

~~162-010.03A The Board will make a recommendation regarding reinstatement following suspension, limitation, revocation, or voluntary surrender within 180 days of receipt of the application.~~

~~162-010.03B The Department, with the recommendation of the Board, may:~~

- ~~1. Conduct an investigation to determine if the applicant has committed acts or offenses prohibited by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-178;~~
- ~~2. Require the applicant to submit to a complete diagnostic examination, at the expense of the applicant, by one or more physician(s) or other professionals appointed by the Board. The applicant may also consult a physician(s) or other professionals of his/her own choice for a complete diagnostic examination and make available a report(s) of the examination(s) to the Department and to the Board;~~
- ~~3. Require the applicant to pass a written, oral, or practical examination or any combination of examinations at the expense of the applicant;~~
- ~~4. Require the applicant to successfully complete additional education at the expense of the applicant;~~
- ~~5. Require the applicant to successfully pass an inspection of his/her practice site; or~~
- ~~6. Take any combination of these actions.~~

~~162-010.03C On the basis of the written application, materials submitted by the applicant, and the information obtained under 172 NAC 162-010.03B, the Board may:~~

- ~~1. Deny the application for reinstatement; or~~
- ~~2. Recommend to the Department:
 - ~~a. Full reinstatement of the credential;~~
 - ~~b. Modification of the suspension or limitation; or~~~~

- c. ~~Reinstatement subject to limitations or subject to probation with terms and conditions.~~

~~If the applicant has practiced while his/her credential was suspended, limited, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered, the Department may assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011, in which case a separate notice of opportunity for hearing will be sent to the applicant.~~

~~162-010.03D An affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the Board as authorized by statute is required to recommend reinstatement of a credential with or without terms, conditions, or restrictions.~~

~~162-010.03E Full Reinstatement: If the Board recommends full reinstatement of the credential, modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or subject to probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The following information will be forwarded to the Director for a decision:~~

- ~~1. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;~~
- ~~2. The application for reinstatement;~~
- ~~3. The record of hearing, if any; and~~
- ~~4. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the applicant.~~

~~162-010.03F Denial, Modification, Limitation, or Probation: If the Board's initial decision is to deny the application for reinstatement, recommend modifications of the suspension or limitation, or reinstate the credential subject to limitation or probation with terms and conditions, notification of the Board's decision will be mailed to the applicant by certified mail.~~

- ~~1. The initial decision or recommendation of the Board will become final 30 days after the decision or recommendation is mailed to the applicant unless the applicant requests a hearing within that 30-day period.
 - ~~a. If the applicant requests a hearing before the Board, the Department will mail a notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing. The notice will be sent by certified mail at least 30 days before the hearing.~~
 - ~~b. Following the hearing, the Board may deny the reinstatement or recommend full reinstatement of the credential, or recommend modification of the suspension or limitation, or recommend reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or probation with terms and conditions.~~~~

- ~~2. If the applicant has been afforded a hearing or an opportunity for a~~

~~hearing on an application for reinstatement within two years before filing the current application, the Department may grant or deny the application without another hearing before the Board.~~

~~162-010.0G Denial Decision: If the Board's final decision is denial of the application for reinstatement, the applicant will be notified by certified mail. The applicant may appeal the Board's denial to District Court in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.~~

~~162-008.03H Board Recommendation: If the Board's final recommendation is full reinstatement of the credential, modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The following information will be forwarded to the Director for a decision:~~

- ~~1. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;~~
- ~~2. The application for reinstatement;~~
- ~~3. The record of hearing, if any; and~~
- ~~4. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the applicant.~~

~~162-008.03I Director's Review: The Director, upon receipt of the Board's recommendation for full reinstatement, modification, or probation, will review the application and other documents and make a decision within 150 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation and accompanying documents. The Director will enter an order setting forth the decision. The Director may:~~

- ~~1. Affirm the recommendation of the Board and grant reinstatement; or~~
- ~~2. Reverse or modify the recommendation if the Board's recommendation is:
 - ~~a. In excess of statutory authority;~~
 - ~~b. Made upon unlawful procedure;~~
 - ~~c. Unsupported by competent, material, and substantial evidence in view of the entire record; or~~
 - ~~d. Arbitrary and capricious.~~~~

~~The order regarding reinstatement of the applicant's credential will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The Director's decision may be appealed to District Court by any party to the decision. The appeal must be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.~~

~~162-011 ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY: The Department may assess an administrative penalty when evidence exists of practice without a credential to practice a profession or operate a business. Practice without a credential for the purpose of this regulation means practice:~~

1. ~~Prior to the issuance of a credential;~~
2. ~~Following the expiration of a credential; or~~
3. ~~Prior to the reinstatement of a credential.~~

~~162-011.01 Evidence of Practice: The Department will consider any of the following conditions as prima facie evidence of practice without being credentialed:~~

1. ~~The person admits to engaging in practice;~~
2. ~~Staffing records or other reports from the employer of the person indicate that the person was engaged in practice;~~
3. ~~Billing or payment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;~~
4. ~~Service, care, or treatment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;~~
5. ~~Appointment records indicate that the person was engaged in practice; and~~
6. ~~The person opens a business or practice site and announces or advertises that the business or site is open to provide service, care, or treatment.~~

~~For purposes of this regulation, prima facie evidence means a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by some evidence to the contrary.~~

~~162-011.02 Penalty: The Department may assess an administrative penalty in the amount of \$10 per day, not to exceed a total of \$1,000 for practice without a credential. To assess the penalty, the Department will:~~

1. ~~Provide written notice of the assessment to the person. The notice will specify:~~
 - a. ~~The total amount of the administrative penalty;~~
 - b. ~~The evidence on which the administrative penalty is based;~~
 - c. ~~That the person may request, in writing, a hearing to contest the assessment of an administrative penalty;~~
 - d. ~~That the Department will within 30 days following receipt of payment of the administrative penalty, remit the penalty to the State Treasurer to be disposed of in accordance with Article VII, section 5 of the Constitution of Nebraska;~~
 - e. ~~That an unpaid administrative penalty constitutes a debt to the State of Nebraska which may be collected in the manner of a lien foreclosure or sued for and recovered in a proper form of action in the name of the state in the District Court of the county in which the violator resides or owns property. The Department may also collect in such action attorney's fees and costs incurred directly in the collection of the administrative penalty; and~~
 - f. ~~Failure to pay an administrative penalty may result in disciplinary action.~~
2. ~~Send by certified mail, a written notice of the administrative penalty to the last known address of the person to whom the penalty is assessed.~~

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~~162-11.03 Administrative Hearing:~~ When a person contests the administrative penalty and requests a hearing, the Department will hold a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

~~162-012 FEES:~~ Fees referred to in these regulations are set out in 172 NAC 2, unless otherwise specified.

These amended rules and regulations replace 172 NAC 162 Regulations Governing the Practice Respiratory Care, effective January 15, 2005.

Approved by Attorney General: _____ March 3, 2011
Approved by Governor: _____ August 9, 2011
Filed with Secretary of State: _____ August 9, 2011
Effective Date: _____ August 14, 2011

Forms may be obtained by contacting the Licensure Unit or by accessing the website at:
<http://www.hhss.ne.gov/crl/profindex1.htm>

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Licensure Unit
PO Box 94986
Lincoln NE 68509-4986 _____

TITLE 172 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

CHAPTER 162 RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS

001. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY. These regulations govern the licensure of respiratory care practitioners under Nebraska Revised Statute (Neb. Rev. Stat.) §§ 38-3201 to 38-3216 of the Respiratory Care Practice Act and the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA).

002. DEFINITIONS. Definitions are set out in the Respiratory Care Practice Act, the Uniform Credentialing Act, Title 172 Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) 10, and this chapter.

002.01 APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAM. A respiratory therapy education program which is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care.

002.02 CONTINUING EDUCATION. The offering of instruction or information to license holders for the purpose of maintaining skills necessary to the safe and competent practice of respiratory care. Continuing education may be offered under such names as scientific school, clinic, forum, lecture, or educational seminar.

002.03 LICENSURE EXAMINATION. The Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) examination or the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) examination offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care and approved by the Department on the recommendation of the Board.

002.04 PROVIDER. An individual or sponsoring organization that presents continuing education programs to license holders.

002.05 SCALED SCORE. A qualitative interpretive score which is a function of performance.

003. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS. To obtain a license, an individual must submit a complete application provided by the Department and provide documentation demonstrating that the applicant meets the licensing requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-3209 to §38-3212, 172 NAC 10, and this chapter.

003.01 DOCUMENTATION. The following documentation must be provided to the Department.

003.01(A) EDUCATION. Submit an official transcript directly from the issuing institution, verifying completion of an approved training program.

003.01(B) EXAMINATION. Documentation of successful completion of the licensure

examination developed by the National Board of Respiratory Care with a minimum score of 75 on a scaled score ranging from 1 to 99. An applicant who, on or before July 17, 1986, passed the Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician or Registered Respiratory Therapist examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care or the appropriate accrediting agency acceptable to the Board, and meets the requirements as listed in 172 NAC 10, will be issued a license to perform respiratory care.

003.01(C) OTHER PROOF OF COMPETENCY. Applicants who have met the education and examination requirements as listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01(A) and (B) who passed the examination more than 3 years prior to the time of application and who are not practicing at the time of application, must within the 3 years immediately preceding the application, present proof of having at least 60 hours of acceptable continuing education in accordance with these regulations with a minimum of 15 hours in the each of the following categories:

- (i) Pharmacology;
- (ii) Mechanical ventilation;
- (iii) Non-invasive ventilation support; and
- (iv) Practice of respiratory care.

003.01(D) ACTIVE LICENSE IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION, NOT PRACTICING. Applicants who have an active license in another jurisdiction but who are not practicing at the time of application must meet the requirements listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01(A) and (B) and provide proof of having a minimum of 20 hours of acceptable continuing education in accordance with these regulations, obtained within the 3 years immediately preceding the date of application.

004. RENEWAL, WAIVER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, AND INACTIVE STATUS. The applicant must meet the requirements set out in 172 NAC 10. All respiratory care practitioner licenses expire on June 1st of each even-numbered year.

005. CONTINUING EDUCATION. On or before June 1st of each even-numbered year, individuals holding an active license in the State of Nebraska must complete at least 20 hours of acceptable continuing education hours during the preceding 24-month period.

005.01 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOUR CALCULATIONS. The following provides the hour calculations for acceptable continuing education:

005.01(A) PROGRAMS AT STATE AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS. Programs presented at state or national association meetings must relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care. One hour for each hour of attendance;

005.01(B) FORMAL EDUCATION COURSES. Formal continuing education courses must be:

- (i) Formally organized and planned instructional experiences;
- (ii) Have a date, location, course title, number of contact hours, signed certificate of attendance, and be open to all licensees;

- (iii) Have objectives that relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care; and
- (iv) Be presented by an instructor that has specialized experience or training to meet the objectives of the course.

005.01(C) ACADEMIC COURSEWORK. Courses related to respiratory care practice taken either in person or online for college credit will be accepted for continuing education upon submission of a transcript by the college or university from which the course was taken. Continuing education hours will be awarded as follows:

- (i) 1 semester hour of academic credit equals 15 continuing education hours; and
- (ii) 1 quarter hour of academic credit equals 10 continuing education hours.

005.01(D) HOME STUDY. Home study will be accepted when the content of the home study activity relates to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care, whether the subject is research, treatment, documentation, education, or management, for example, videotapes, internet courses, or correspondence courses. The program must have a testing mechanism scored by the named study provider. A licensee's documentation must include a certificate of completion and a program outline or objectives.

005.01(E) MANAGEMENT COURSES. Management courses which relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care will be accepted. A respiratory care practitioner may complete a maximum of 4 hours of continuing education utilizing management courses each 24-month renewal period. A licensee's documentation must include a certificate of attendance and a program outline or objectives.

005.01(F) SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS. A licensee will earn contact hours for successful completion of nationally recognized specialty certification examinations related to an area of specialty practice in the field of respiratory care each 24-month renewal period. A licensee's documentation must include a copy of the certification that shows the date of the examination. Continuing education hours will be awarded as follows:

- (i) Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT), 10 hours;
- (ii) Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT), 10 hours;
- (iii) Neonatal Pediatric Specialist (NPS), 10 hours;
- (iv) Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT), 10 hours; and
- (v) Registered Respiratory Therapist (written and clinical simulation examinations), 15 hours.

005.01(G) CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION CERTIFICATION. Basic or advanced cardiac life support for adults and pediatric or neonatal courses:

- (i) Maximum of 1 hour credit for the basic cardiac life support course during each 24-month renewal period;
- (ii) Maximum of 12 hours credit for initial advanced cardiac life support certification course or 6 hours credit for re-certification during each 24-month renewal period;
- (iii) Maximum of 8 hours credit for initial neonatal advanced life support certification

- course or 4 hours credit for re-certification during each 24-month renewal period;
(iv) Maximum of 12 hours credit for pediatric advanced life support certification course or 6 hours credit for re-certification during each 24-month renewal period.

005.01(H) IN-SERVICES. In-services that meet the requirements for formal education that cover:

- (i) Therapeutic respiratory care procedures; or
- (ii) Respiratory care equipment.

005.01(I) PRESENTER OR LECTURER. One hour credit will be awarded for each hour of scientific presentation by a licensee acting as an essayist or lecturer to licensed respiratory care practitioners if the program relates to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to respiratory care. A licensee may receive continuing education credit for only the initial presentation during a renewal period, with a maximum of 4 hours of continuing education for presentations in a 24-month renewal period. Presenters may not receive any more hours of credit for a continuing education activity than an attendee could receive for the activity.

005.02 ACCEPTABLE PROGRAMS. The Board does not approve continuing education programs. In order for a continuing education program to be accepted for renewal or reinstatement of a license, the activity must include one or a combination of the following topic areas related to the practice of respiratory care therapy or clinical application:

- (A) Research;
- (B) Treatment;
- (C) Documentation;
- (D) Management; or
- (E) Education.

005.03 NON-ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION. Continuing education credit will not be awarded for programs that do not relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care including:

- (A) Business communications and operations;
- (B) Medical terminology and language courses;
- (C) Courses which deal with personal self-improvement, financial gain, or career options;
- (D) Courses designed for lay persons;
- (E) Teaching unlicensed or uncertified persons, conducting research, or publications, or any preparation for the same;
- (F) Respiratory care on-the-job training;
- (G) Respiratory care orientation programs or staff meetings, including orientation to new policies, non-therapeutic procedures, equipment, forms, responsibilities, or services;
- (H) Presentation made by students; or
- (I) Participation in or attendance at case conferences, grand rounds, or informal presentations.

006. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT. Unprofessional conduct is set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-179 and this chapter and includes:

- (A) Providing services for which they are not trained or experienced;

- (B) Encouraging or promoting respiratory care by untrained or unqualified persons;
- (C) Committing any act which endangers patient safety or welfare;
- (D) Failure to maintain in confidence information obtained from a patient, except in those unusual circumstances in which to do so would result in clear danger to the person or to others, or where otherwise required by law;
- (E) Failure to safeguard the welfare of patients and maintain appropriate professional relationships with patients;
- (F) Improper use of another person for one's own advantage;
- (G) Failure to decline to carry out respiratory care services that have been requested when the services are known to be contraindicated or unjustified;
- (H) Failure to decline to carry out procedures that have been requested when such services are known to be outside of the respiratory care practitioner's scope of practice;
- (I) Verbally or physically abusing patients;
- (J) Falsification or unauthorized destruction of patient records;
- (K) Attempting to provide diagnostic or treatment information to patients that is beyond the respiratory care practitioner's level of training and expertise;
- (L) Delegating to other personnel those patient related services when the clinical skills and expertise of a respiratory care practitioner is required.
- (M) Engaging in sexual harassment of patients or co-workers. Sexual harassment includes making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, and engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature as a condition of:
 - (i) The provision or denial of respiratory care to a patient;
 - (ii) The provision or denial of employment or employment advances to a co-worker;
 - (iii) For the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for the patient or unreasonably interfering with a patient's ability to recover; or
 - (iv) For the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment or unreasonably interfering with the co-worker's ability to perform their work.
- (N) Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
- (O) Violating an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-1,108;
- (P) Failure to follow policies or procedures implemented in the practice situation to safeguard patient care;
- (Q) Failure to safeguard the patient's dignity and right to privacy;
- (R) Failure to exercise appropriate supervision over persons who are authorized to practice only under the supervision of the licensed professional;
- (S) Failure of a licensee who is the subject of a disciplinary investigation to furnish the Department or its investigator with requested information or requested documents.

007. REINSTATEMENT. The application must meet the requirements set out in 172 NAC 10.

008. FEES. Fees are set out in 172 NAC 2.