

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Delicensing of Respiratory Therapists
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 3:47:26 PM

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 2:58 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Delicensing of Respiratory Therapists

This is in response to your delicensing of Respiratory Therapists.

They do more than you think and have to know more than you can imagine. You see, EVERY part of the body is affected by what happens in the lungs, and by extension, the heart. And it is the responsibility of the RT to know about each of these other systems and how the heart and lungs play most every part in their functions. Just a quick visual assessment by the RT can tell them about the patient's lung functions, cardiac functions, and what may need to be done to get them out of a critical situation quickly. This includes skin color, how easily (or not) the patient is breathing (depth of breaths, rate, etc.), respiratory muscle activity, level of consciousness, and so much more and this is before they ever even touch a stethoscope to their chest. This is their expertise. This is what they are trained to do. This is why they are nationally credentialed, this is why it is the State's obligation to make sure they are at the top of their game by licensure.

There are intricate assessment tools, diagnostic tools, treatment tools, mathematical tools, mechanical tools that are the specialty of the RT. Nurses have their own level of expertise in THEIR equipment and assessment/treatment modes, but they are NOT educated at the level of the RT when it comes to cardio-pulmonary functions. Even most doctors don't have a clue about the true role of the RT.

They are in every part of the hospital, ICUS...all of them...Emergency, Pediatrics, Neonatal, Recovery, General care floors, everywhere. To continue for them to go unrecognized is shameful. To strip them of their licensure is dangerous!

They don't just deliver oxygen, give treatments, and take care of ventilators, though these procedures are reason enough to keep them accountable. And that is what state licensure does, it keeps them, all health care professionals, accountable. It assures that they are the best at what they do, continually trained, continually up to date, ready to treat you or your loved ones without outward recognition and praise. Think about it...would you want YOUR child's ventilator management done by anyone less than a licensed therapist? I doubt it.

Respiratory Therapist are the unsung heroes in the background. You don't hear about them unless they are helping YOU, but they are always there. They quietly provide the care that patients need without the fanfare, without the recognition, without the outward support, but they are always there. There are no 'Carry the Load' organizations for them like there are for other first responders, there are no accolades, but they are always there. They are quite often the 'first responders' in the hospital and are more often than not, called before even the doctor. Ask any ICU nurse who is their 'turn-to' person when a patient crashes. They will tell you, Respiratory Therapy.

I would encourage you to rethink this. Can you put a dollar figure on the life of your child or spouse? If so, then by all means save a few bucks by removing RT's licensing procedures.

If not, consider the security you will have in knowing that the very best care is being given because the very best is at their bedside.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Toni Taylor, CRT, RRT