



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida Licensees

FROM: Florida Board of Respiratory Care and Florida Society for Respiratory Care

SUBJECT: NBRC Continuing Competency Program

DATE: April 21, 2008

Dear Florida Licensee,

Recent changes to the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) credentialing standards were reviewed by the Board of Respiratory Care at the April 11, 2008 meeting, at the request of the Florida Society for Respiratory Care, to examine the impact on current licensed therapists in the state of Florida. The Florida Board of Respiratory Care addressed the use of the terms and acronyms Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) by a licensed CRT or RRT.

The NBRC's Continuing Competency Program states: *"Individuals participating in the Continuing Competency Program are required to provide evidence they are continuing to meet current standards of practice and have successfully renewed their national credentials issued by the NBRC. . . . Credentials awarded by the NBRC on or after July 1, 2002 are valid for a period of five years and are subject to the Continuing Competency Program requirements. The five-year period is calculated from the end of the calendar month in which the credential is issued; an exact expiration date is printed on an individual's credentialing certificate. Participation in the Continuing Competency Program for individuals who were credentialed PRIOR to July 1, 2002 is voluntary and will have no effect on their credentials."*

After review and consideration, the Florida Board of Respiratory Care determined that these issues are between the licensee and the NBRC. The Board has no plans to take any actions regarding the use of these terms and acronyms.

Thank you.