

## Position Statements on Practice

# BiPAP and CPAP setup by Polysomnographic Technologists

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### Position:

It is the Board's position that the authority given Polysomnographic Technologists under Section 4761.10 (B)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code and rule 4761-5-06 of the Ohio Administrative Code to engage in the limited provision of respiratory care tasks is not extended to non-laboratory settings. Rule 4761-5-06 of the Ohio Administrative Code identifies these tasks as:

- (1) Application and titration of bi-level or continuous positive airway pressure;
- (2) Application and titration of supplemental low flow oxygen;
- (3) Application and monitoring of pulse oximetry;
- (4) Application and monitoring of capnometry; and
- (5) Patient education in the application of bi-level or continuous positive airway pressure, low flow oxygen, or pulse oximetry for the ongoing management of sleep-related disorders.

### Background:

Section 4761.10 (B)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code<sup>1</sup> permits the Ohio Respiratory Care Board to identify, by rule, respiratory care tasks that can be performed by authorized polysomnographic technologists, as long as both of the following are met:

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<sup>1</sup> Section 4761.10 (B)(3) states:

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- (3) A polysomnographic technologist credentialed by an organization the Ohio respiratory care board recognizes, a trainee under the direct supervision of a polysomnographic technologist credentialed by an organization the board recognizes, or a person the board recognizes as being eligible to be credentialed as a polysomnographic technologist may perform the respiratory care tasks specified in rules adopted under section 4761.03 of the Revised Code, as long as both of the following apply:
  - (a) The tasks are performed in the diagnosis and therapeutic intervention of sleep-related breathing disorders and under the general supervision of a physician.
  - (b) The person performing the tasks does not represent that the person is engaged in the practice of respiratory care.

- (1) The tasks are performed in the diagnostic and therapeutic intervention of sleep-related breathing disorders and under the general supervision of a physician, and
- (2) The polysomnographic technologist does not represent that they are engaged in the practice of respiratory care.

The Ohio Respiratory Care Board has received inquiries asking if polysomnographic technologists, working for a home care company, can setup and apply BiPAP and CPAP devices in the home setting. Rule 4761-5-06 of the Ohio Administrative Code<sup>2</sup> establishes respiratory care tasks that may be performed by polysomnographic technologists in the performance of diagnostic and therapeutic intervention of sleep related disorders. Among the respiratory care tasks identified by the Ohio Respiratory Care Board as permissible for polysomnographic technology practice is the application and titration of bi-level and continuous positive airway pressure. It is important to note that the Ohio Revised Code only permits polysomnographic technologists to apply and titrate BiPAP and CPAP in the performance of diagnostic and therapeutic intervention of sleep related disorders and under the general supervision of a physician. This requirement can only be satisfied in an environment that permits both diagnostic and therapeutic intervention of sleep related disorders and under the general supervision of a physician. Routine application of CPAP and BiPAP devices in the absence of diagnostic

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<sup>2</sup> OAC 4761-5-06 states:

- (A) As used in division (B)(3) of section 4761.10 of the Revised Code, “a polysomnographic technologist” shall be defined as a person who holds a credential as a registered polysomnographic technologist (RPSGT) issued by the board of registered polysomnographic technologists (BRPT) or its successor organization.
- (B) As used in division (B)(3) of section 4761.10 of the Revised Code, “a trainee” shall be defined as a person who, under the direct supervision of a polysomnographic technologist, performs respiratory care tasks as a part of a defined course of education leading to eligibility to take the comprehensive registry exam for polysomnographic technologists.
- (C) As used in division (B)(3) of section 4761.10 of the Revised Code, “being eligible to be credentialed” shall be defined as a person who has completed the training and clinical experience required by the BRPT to take the comprehensive registry exam for polysomnographic technologists. Eligibility status shall not exceed eighteen months.
- (D) As used in division (B)(3) of section 4761.10 of the Revised Code, “direct supervision” shall be defined as being immediately available to oversee and direct the care rendered by a trainee.
- (E) The following respiratory care tasks performed in the diagnosis and therapeutic intervention of sleep-related breathing disorders may be performed upon the prescription or order under the general supervision of a physician:
  - (1) Application and titration of bi-level or continuous positive airway pressure;
  - (2) Application and titration of supplemental low flow oxygen;
  - (3) Application and monitoring of pulse oximetry;
  - (4) Application and monitoring of capnometry; and
  - (5) Patient education in the application of bi-level or continuous positive airway pressure, low flow oxygen, or pulse oximetry for the ongoing management of sleep-related disorders.

testing does not satisfy the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code or the Ohio Administrative Code.

As an employee of a home medical equipment facility, a person may install and demonstrate home medical equipment. Section 4752.01 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code defines “home medical equipment services”.<sup>3</sup> Within this definition, a licensed or registered home medical equipment facility can install and demonstrate home medical equipment, which includes BiPAP and CPAP devices. “Installing and demonstrating” home medical equipment” is not the same as “applying and/or instructing in the use” of BiPAP and CPAP devices. Demonstration, by definition, includes a presentation or explanation of the equipment, but not the actual application of the device on the patient.

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<sup>3</sup> **Section 4752.01 (C) of the Revised Code states:**

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(C) "Home medical equipment services" means the sale, delivery, installation, maintenance, replacement, or demonstration of home medical equipment. (emphasis added)

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