

Position Statement on Practice

CPAP Mask Fitting by Unlicensed Personnel

October 14, 2008

Position:

It is the Board's position that the administration and instruction in the use of CPAP equipment, including mask fitting, cannot be performed by an unlicensed person.

Background:

The practice of home medical equipment services is defined under Section 4752.01 of the Revised Code.¹ The scope of HME services defined under Section 4752.01 of the Revised Code includes the demonstration of HME equipment. The practice of respiratory care is defined under Section 4761.01 of the Revised Code.² The scope of practice for respiratory care includes "applying, maintaining, and instructing in the use of artificial airways, ventilators, and other life support equipment."

Analysis:

Clearly the Ohio General Assembly intended that home medical equipment facilities licensed or registered in the state of Ohio be able to properly demonstrate how home medical equipment works. The issue before the Board is whether "demonstrating" home medical equipment means the same as "applying and/or instructing in the use" of CPAP devices. Fitting a CPAP mask is an integral part of administering CPAP or BiPAP therapy.

The Board feels strongly that the applying and instruction in the use of CPAP equipment, including mask fitting, is within the scope of respiratory care as it is defined under Section 4761.01 of the Revised Code. Demonstrating a CPAP device; however, is different than applying and/or instructing in the use of the CPAP device. The mask is an integral component of the CPAP/BiPAP device and is recognized under the Ohio Administrative Code as home medical equipment.³ Applying or instructing in the use of the CPAP/BiPAP device and mask, including mask fitting is not the same as demonstrating the equipment. Demonstration would not include patient administration or education instruction on the use of the equipment. Demonstration, by definition, includes a presentation or explanation of the equipment, but not the actual application of the device. Based on this analysis, the Board finds that "fitting" a CPAP mask is not a service within the scope of HME services as it is defined under Section 4752.01 of the Revised Code.

¹ **Section 4752.01 (C) of the Revised Code states:**

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

² **Section 4752.01 (C) of the Revised Code states:**

As used in this chapter:

- (A) "Respiratory care" means rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, organizations, or the public any service involving the evaluation of cardiopulmonary function, the treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment, the assessment of treatment effectiveness, and the care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities associated with the cardiopulmonary system. The practice of respiratory care includes:

- (1) Obtaining, analyzing, testing, measuring, and monitoring blood and gas samples in the determination of cardiopulmonary parameters and related physiologic data, including flows, pressures, and volumes, and the use of equipment employed for this purpose;
- (2) Administering, monitoring, recording the results of, and instructing in the use of medical gases, aerosols, and bronchopulmonary hygiene techniques, including drainage, aspiration, and sampling, and applying, maintaining, and instructing in the use of artificial airways, ventilators, and other life support equipment employed in the treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment and provided in collaboration with other licensed health care professionals responsible for providing care;
- (3) Performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation and respiratory rehabilitation techniques;
- (4) Administering medications for the testing or treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment. ***

³ **Rule 4761:1-3-2 of the Administrative Code states, in pertinent part:**

- (B) "Technologically-sophisticated" means medical equipment prescribed by an authorized health care professional that requires individualized adjustment or regular maintenance by an HME service provider to maintain a patient's health care condition or the effectiveness of the equipment, including but not limited to:

- (2) CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) devices;
- (3) Bi-level airway pressure (BiPAP) devices;

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- (C) “Other” equipment is an item specified by the Ohio respiratory care board in rules adopted under division (b) of section [4752.17](#) of the revised code, including but not limited to:

- (7) Individually sized or customized accessories that are an integral part of equipment defined in paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of this rule.