

Position Statements on Practice

Role of Respiratory Care Professional in cardiac catheterization laboratories

Original position issued: June 15, 2004

Reconsidered: October 16, 2006

Position:

It was the board's position that tasks performed within the context of evaluating cardiopulmonary impairment, although not traditionally regarded to be respiratory care, may fall within the legal scope of practice.

Section 4761.01 of the Revised Code defines "respiratory care" as:

"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.*

It is the Board's position that cardiac catheterization duties may fall within the scope of respiratory care practice if performed by respiratory care professionals demonstrating competency and skills required to perform safely in the environment.

Respiratory care professionals must determine if medications administered are or are not administered for the testing and treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment when evaluating as to their inclusion in the legal scope of respiratory care practice. The board also emphasizes O.A.C. 4761-7-05 that establishes the training, competency and documentation requirements for administering any medication. R.C. 4761.09 permits the board to take disciplinary action against any respiratory care professional that practices in area of care for which they are clearly untrained or incompetent.