

## Chapter Med 20

## RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS

Med 20.01 Authority and purpose  
 Med 20.02 Definitions  
 Med 20.03 Applications and credentials

Med 20.04 Examinations; panel review of applications  
 Med 20.05 Temporary certificates

**Med 20.01 Authority and purpose.** The rules in this chapter are adopted by the medical examining board under the authority of ss. 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) and 448.40 (1), Stats., to govern the certification and regulation of respiratory care practitioners.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92

**Med 20.02 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the medical examining board.
- (2) "Council" means the respiratory care practitioners examining council.
- (3) "CRTT" means a certified respiratory therapy technician.
- (4) "RRT" means a registered respiratory therapist.

Note: "CRTT" and "RRT" are registered trademarks of the national board for respiratory care.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92.

**Med 20.03 Applications and credentials.** (1) Every applicant for initial certification as a respiratory care practitioner shall submit:

- (a) A completed application form.
- (b) The fee specified in s. 440.05 (3) (n) 7, Stats.
- (c) A recent passport type photograph of the applicant.
- (d) Written verification that the applicant has passed the national board for respiratory care certification examination required in s. Med 20.04 (1).
- (e) Evidence of successful completion of the state board statutes and rules examination and oral examination if required.
- (f) One of the following:
  1. Satisfactory evidence that the applicant is a graduate of a school with a course of instruction in respiratory care approved by the joint review committee for respiratory therapy education of the American medical association.
  2. Prior to January 1, 1992, evidence of experience or informal training that the board determines is substantially equivalent to the requirements for certification under s. 448.05 (5r), Stats., and evidence of having passed the national board for respiratory care CRTT or RRT examination.
  3. Prior to January 1, 1992, evidence of over 3,000 hours of work experience as a respiratory care practitioner within the last 3 years, and informal training, where the

applicant does not meet the national board for respiratory care CRTT examination admission requirements.

(2) A scaled score of 75 or above on the national board for respiratory care CRTT examination is required for certification.

(3) An application for certification is not complete until the board has received both the completed application form and written verification of a passing grade directly from the national board for respiratory care.

Note: Application forms are available on request to the board office, 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92.

**Med 20.04 Examinations; panel review of applications.** (1) An applicant for certification as a respiratory care practitioner shall pass the national board for respiratory care CRTT examination.

(2) An applicant for certification as a respiratory care practitioner shall pass a state board statutes and rules examination conducted by the council as evidenced by documents submitted directly to the council by the department's office of examinations.

(3) The board designates the council as its agent for conducting oral examinations.

(4) An applicant may be required to complete an oral examination if the applicant:

- (a) Has received inpatient or outpatient care for drug or alcohol abuse;
- (b) Has received inpatient or outpatient care for mental illness;
- (c) Has been disciplined or had licensure denied by a licensing or regulatory authority in Wisconsin or another jurisdiction;
- (d) Has been convicted of a crime the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of respiratory care;

(e) Has not practiced respiratory care for more than 1,200 hours during the last 3 years;

(f) Has practiced over 1,200 hours in the last 3 years but practice was limited; or

(g) Has been found negligent in the practice of respiratory care or has been a party in a lawsuit in which it was alleged that the applicant has been negligent in the practice of respiratory care.

(5) All examinations shall be conducted in English.

## Med 20.04

(6) Where both written and oral examinations are required, they shall be scored separately and the applicant shall achieve a passing grade on both examinations to qualify for a certificate.

(7) An applicant who fails to receive a passing score on an examination may reapply by payment of the fee specified in s. 440.05 (3) (n) 7, Stats. If an applicant fails an examination 3 times, the applicant may not retake that state board examination unless the applicant submits proof of having completed further professional training or education as the board may prescribe. An applicant for an oral examination may reapply twice at not less than 4 month intervals.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92.

**Med 20.05 Temporary certificates.** (1) An applicant for certification may apply to the board for a temporary certificate to practice respiratory care prior to certification if the applicant has submitted to the board the application and documents required under s. Med 20.03 and if the applicant:

- (a) Submits a completed application form;
- (b) Remits the fee specified in s. 440.05 (3) (n) 7, Stats.;
- (c) Is a graduate of an approved school as defined in s. Med 20.03 (1) (f) and is scheduled to take the CRTT examination for respiratory care practitioners or is awaiting the results;
- (d) Has not previously failed the examination as required in s. Med 20.04 (1); and

(e) Has passed the state board statutes and rules examination; and

(f) Is not required to take an oral examination.

(2) Practice during the period of a temporary certificate shall be in consultation, at least monthly, with a respiratory care practitioner or a physician who shall at least once a month endorse the activities of the person holding the temporary certificate.

(3) A temporary certificate expires on the first day of the next regularly scheduled CRTT examination for permanent certification if the applicant is required to take but failed to apply for the examination. If the applicant is required to take, and applies for, the examination, a temporary certificate expires when the applicant is notified of having failed the examination required by s. Med 20.04 (1).

(4) A temporary certificate may be issued for a period not to exceed one year and may not be renewed.

(5) The application and required documents for regular certification and the application for temporary certification prior to regular certification will be reviewed by 2 members of the council to determine eligibility. The board, acting through the council, may issue a temporary certificate prior to regular certification as a respiratory care practitioner to an applicant who meets the requirements of sub. (1).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1991, No. 432, eff. 1-1-92