

# Guidelines for Respiratory Therapy Continuing Education

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## **Regulation 10:**

**Section 5: Continuing Education.** All respiratory care practitioners licensed by the Board in the State of Arkansas must complete twelve (12) continuing education hourly units as a condition for renewal of a license. Each licensee will sign their renewal application verifying that they have completed said twelve hours and will maintain, for a period of three years, proof of the courses taken, should it be requested by the Board for audit purposes.

**Section 5.5. Excessive Continuing Education Credits.** Credits reported to the Board which exceed the required number as specified in Section 5 shall not be credited to the new reporting period.

## ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION

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- Courses completed in the techniques and application of respiratory therapy care provided through an approved respiratory care educational program.
- Participation in programs which provide for the awarding of continuing respiratory care education, continuing education units or equivalent credits which may be granted through national or state organizations such as the American Association of Respiratory Care, Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care, American Thoracic Society or the American College of Chest Physicians, or their successor organizations
- Instruction in programs as described above, provided such instruction is not related to one's employment responsibilities
- Successfully completed academic coursework related to respiratory therapy. Official transcript required. Five (5) CEUs will be awarded for each semester credit or hour completed.
- Six (6) CEUs will be awarded for passage of the following (Certification Verification received directly from the NBRC or a copy of the passing Score Report to be submitted for proof of completion):
  - The National Board for Respiratory Care credentialing or re-credentialing examinations for the entry level practitioner or the written or clinical simulation or advanced practitioner (RRT);
  - Adult Critical Care Specialty Examination (ACCS);
  - Certified Respiratory Therapy Sleep Disorders Specialist Examination (CRT-SDS);
  - Registered Respiratory Therapy Sleep Disorders Specialist Examination (RRT-SDS);
  - Neonatal/Pediatric Specialty Examination (NPS);
  - Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT);
  - Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT);
  - Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (RPSGT);
  - Certified Polysomnographic Technologists (CPSGT); and
  - Certificate of Added Qualification in Neonatal Pediatric Transport (C-NPT).

- Six (6) CEUs are awarded on initial and/or re-certifications (copy of certification card to be submitted for proof of completion):
  - Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS);
  - Neonatal Advanced Life Support (NALS);
  - Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS);
  - Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP); and
  - Sugar, Temperature, Airway, Blood work, Lab work, and Emotional support for the family (STABLE)
- Articles: Peer-reviewed, originate from reliable medical journals (i.e. Respiratory Care Journal published from AARC), written within two years, and preferably evidence-based. Limited to two (2) articles per renewal period, each worth one (1) CEU credit and a typed-one page summary must be submitted about the article and how it pertains to your daily work. Include a copy of the article with your summary to our office.
- Vendor demonstration of equipment. Limited to one (1) CEU per renewal period.
- Courses pre-approved by the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC).
- Professional presentation at a state, national, or international workshop, seminar, or conference. One-time presentation per topic; time spent on preparation cannot be included. Three (3) CEUs will be awarded.
- Author of a chapter in a practice-area related professional textbook. Ten (10) CEUs will be awarded.
- Primary or co-primary investigator within the respiratory therapy field that does extensive scholarly research activities or outcome studies, or externally funded service/training projects associated with grants or post-graduate studies; ten (10) CEUs earned; however grant must be complete and the Respiratory Care Examining Committee must provide pre-approval before being accepted for CEU credits.
- Attending employer provided programs that are pre-approved for CEU's by the Arkansas State Medical Board.
- Arkansas Rules & Regulations Questionnaire; obtained on our website, [www.armedicalboard.org](http://www.armedicalboard.org); limited to one (1) CEU credit.

**The Committee has adopted the following continuing education definition declared by the AARC:**

### **Traditional and Nontraditional Education Defined<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Traditional (Provider-Directed):**

A traditional or provider directed educational activity requires the learner and provider to interact in real time. They need not be in the same place but they must be able to communicate either verbally or in writing with each other during the time the learning activity is occurring. The provider determines pace of the program and schedules the activity. Contact hour credit awarded is based on the time allocated for the exchange of information between the presenter and the learner. Examples of provider directed activities include, but are not limited to, live lecture

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<sup>1</sup> as stated on the American Association for Respiratory Care website. [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org). 28 February 2013.

educational sessions that are part of conventions, courses, seminars, workshops, lecture series, and distance learning activities such as webcasts, videoconferences and audio conferences in which the learner can interact with the provider. A post-test is not required for provider-directed learning activities.

**Nontraditional (Learner-Directed):**

A nontraditional learner-directed (independent study) is conducted by the learner at his or her own pace. The instructor does not interact with the learner in real time. The formats for nontraditional activities include, but are not limited to studies of web-based courses, archived webcasts, pod casts videotapes, audiotapes or monographs or the content of journals. Satisfactory completion of a post-test is required to meet the requirements of all learner-directed courses.

## UNACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION

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- In-service education for activities that fulfill assigned general responsibilities specific to the expectations of employers will not be accepted for CEUs (e.g. general institutional policies and procedures, employee orientation, and annual competency verification, etc.)
- CPR, BLS, PEARS
- Programs intended for the general population of hospital employees, such as JCAHO review information
- Courses required for a postgraduate degree in RT, however do not pertain directly to RT (e.g. English, Chemistry, History, Spanish, etc.)
- Courses obtained from the website Medscape
- Infection control standards and procedures
- Universal precautions
- OSHA regulations
- Institutional policies on hazardous waste, safety practices, MSDS information
- Emergency preparedness
- Utilities management
- Fire Safety and procedures
- Emergency water safety; Water Safety Instructor or Lifesaving training
- Use of restraints; restraint policy
- Computer literacy
- Time management
- Employee relations
- General wellness or self-improvement programs (e.g. Positive thinking)