

New Deadline to Earn the RRT Credential

The National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), the voluntary health certifying board that evaluates the professional competence of respiratory therapists, recently passed a resolution that may impact your state's respiratory care practitioners and the status of their credentials and/or license. We encourage you to read the following information carefully and share it with respiratory therapists in your state. Please note that this information is also available online at www.nbrc.org.

The NBRC Board of Trustees has granted an extension to individuals who graduated from an advanced-level respiratory therapy education program with an associate degree (prior to January 1, 2005) to take and pass the Registry Examination for Advanced Respiratory Therapists (RRT).

The new deadline to earn the RRT credential is February 28, 2009.
(The original deadline established in 2005 of December 31, 2007 has passed.)

In 2003, the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), and the NBRC recognized the RRT credential as the "standard of excellence" for respiratory care professionals. At the request of the AARC and CoARC, NBRC approved a policy on January 1, 2005 that requires graduates of advanced level programs to complete the CRT and RRT Examinations within three (3) years of graduation. The policy also required advanced-level graduates with an associate degree who had already earned the CRT credential to complete the RRT by December 31, 2007. The three (3)-year time limit ensures that individuals who consider themselves "registry eligible" have taken and passed the RRT Examination and demonstrated their knowledge and competence.

According to our records, a number of eligible graduates failed to earn the RRT credential by the original deadline of December 31, 2007. NBRC's mission has always been to evaluate the competency of respiratory therapists and to support the profession of respiratory care. It's a role that we take very seriously. As the provider of the RRT, it is our responsibility to provide graduates of advanced-level education programs with the opportunity to earn the RRT credential so they can help to fill the shortage of qualified respiratory therapists who provide the excellent care that patients expect. We believe extending the deadline to earn the RRT credential is an important step in achieving this goal.

This is especially important during a time when there is a shortage of qualified respiratory therapists to provide the excellent care that patients expect. Advanced-level graduates who earn the RRT credential are in high demand nationwide and can help to fill this shortage.

A list of frequently asked questions about the new deadline and how it impacts respiratory care therapists can be found on our website at www.nbrc.org. Please contact NBRC at 888-341-4811 or email nbrc-info@nbrc.org with any questions.

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