

Tennessee Board of Respiratory Care Policy Statement on Continuing Education Deficiencies

A respiratory care practitioner licensed in Tennessee is required to complete twelve (12) contact hours of continuing education every calendar year. (See Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1330-1-.12 regarding continuing education requirements.) Prior to the institution of any disciplinary proceedings for continuing education deficiencies, a letter shall be sent from the board's administrative office to licensee's last known address of record in the board's office stating the deficiency and asking that licensee cure the deficiency within ninety (90) days from the date of notification. If the deficiency is cured within the 90 days grace period, no disciplinary action shall ensue.

Should the respiratory care practitioner fail to obtain the continuing education ("CE") hours for a calendar year after notification or fail to cure the deficiency within the allowed grace period, the following shall occur:

1. The respiratory care practitioner must pay a civil penalty in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Payment must be rendered within ninety (90) days of notification from the Board that the respiratory care practitioner has been found to have failed to obtain the required continuing education hours. Discipline for CE violations will be assessed by the Department via Agreed Citation, which will detail the licensee's rights and obligations under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. §§ 4-5-301, et seq. The discipline assessed in accordance with this Continuing Education Policy constitutes formal discipline against a practitioner's license, and as such, it is reportable on the Department's Disciplinary Action Report ("DAR") and will be noted on the practitioner's licensure profile.

2. The respiratory care practitioner must make up the amount of continuing education hours that he/she is lacking, in addition to completing the continuing education hours requirement for the current calendar year. The deficient hours must be made up within ninety (90) days of receipt of this policy. Documented proof of the deficient hours obtained must be submitted to the Board upon completion.

3. The respiratory care practitioner must complete an additional five (5) continuing education hours. This requirement is in addition to the requirement that the respiratory care practitioner make up the continuing education hours that he/she is lacking, and in addition to the continuing education hours requirement for the current calendar year. The five (5) hours must be made up within ninety (90) days of receipt of this policy. Documented proof of completion of the deficient hours must be submitted to the Board upon completion.

If such licensee fails to demonstrate that he or she has cured the continuing education deficiency in the manner prescribed by this policy, the Department will file a licensure complaint and the licensee will be prosecuted in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A., §§ 4-5-301, et seq.

AMENDED AND RATIFIED BY THE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE ON MARCH 30, 2017.