



Division of Registrations Office of Respiratory Therapy Licensure

November 29, 2011

Director's Position Statement 001

Respiratory Therapists and Home Medical Equipment Personnel

THE DIRECTOR'S POSITION:

The Director of the Division of Registrations has determined that home medical equipment (HME) delivery personnel may perform pulse oximetry testing and titrate the oxygen level for patients in the course of assigned duties *under the supervision of a licensed respiratory therapist*.

BASIS FOR THE DIRECTOR'S POSITION:

Section 12-41.5-110(2), C.R.S., in pertinent part, does not prohibit:

(i) The practice by an unlicensed person of procedures that fall within the definition of respiratory therapy but that do not require the unlicensed person to perform an assessment, to perform an invasive procedure as defined by the director, or to alter care beyond the scope of approved protocols, *so long as the unlicensed person is under supervision as determined appropriate by the respiratory therapist* [emphasis added] and after such respiratory therapist has considered all of the following:

- (I) The health status and mental and physical stability of the individual receiving care;
- (II) The complexity of the procedures;
- (III) The training and competence of the unlicensed person;
- (IV) The proximity and availability of the respiratory therapist when the procedures are performed;
- (V) The degree of supervision required for the unlicensed person;
- (VI) The length and number of times that the procedure may be performed; and
- (VII) The predictability of the outcome of the procedure.

Therefore, an unlicensed person may titrate the oxygen level for patients in the course of assigned duties *under the supervision of a licensed respiratory therapist*.