

Demystifying the NBRC

Presented by
Carl Haas, MLS, LRT, RRT-ACCS, FAARC
NBRC President

Conflict Statement

- I am a member of the Michigan Respiratory Care Licensing Board
- I have no industry related conflicts to declare

Objectives

- To provide a brief overview of the NBRC structure and function
- To review the Continuing Competency Program
- To review recent changes to the:
 - CRT and RRT Written Examinations
 - Clinical Simulation Examination
 - Pulmonary Function Technologist Examinations
- To review the purpose of function of the NBRC's Judicial & Ethics Committee
- Highlight several other new NBRC efforts

The Organizations

- CoARC: Committee on Accreditation for RC
 - Accredit associate, baccalaureate and graduate RC programs and sleep programs
- NBRC: Credentialing agency
 - Write and administer credentialing exams
- AARC: professional organization
 - Promotes and lobbies for the profession
- State Licensing Board: grant license to practice in a given state

The NBRC

- Was formed in November 1960 to credential respiratory therapists
- Has supported the profession for over 55 years through development of national credentials
- Acts to ensure the continued recognition and value of NBRC credentials

Professional Organizations Sponsoring the NBRC

- American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)
- American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP)
- American Thoracic Society (ATS)
- American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)

Appointments to the NBRC Board of Trustees

- AARC 15 respiratory therapists and/or pulmonary function technologists
- ACCP 5 physicians
- ASA 5 physicians
- ATS 5 physicians

- The NBRC elects one public member, to complete the 31-member governing body

2015 NBRC Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Carl F. Haas, MLS, RRT, RRT-ACCS, CPFT, FAARC (AARC) – President
Alan L. Plummer, MD, FCCP, FAARC (ATS) – Vice President
Linda A. Napoli, MBA, RRT, RRT-NPS, RPFT (AARC) – Secretary
Robert A. Balk, MD, FCCP (ACCP) – Treasurer
Kerry E. George, MEd, RRT, RRT-ACCS, FAARC (AARC) – Past President
Susan B. Blonshine, BS, RRT, RPFT, AE-C, FAARC (AARC)
Robert L. Joyner, Jr., PhD, RRT, RRT-ACCS, FAARC (AARC)
Stephen A. Stayer, MD (ASA)

Public Advisor

Glenna L. Tinney, MSW

Paid Staff

Staff

Gary A. Smith, RRT (Hon), FAARC – Executive Director
Lori M. Tinkler, MBA – Associate Executive Director
Robert C. Shaw Jr., PhD, RRT, FAARC – Assistant Executive Director
Homer Rodriguez, RRT – Director, International Affairs
Ami Bishop – Administrative Support Specialist
Scott M. Hermansen, CPA – Chief Financial Officer
Glenda Hocker – Executive Assistant
Nancy Sachen – Administrative Assistant

Members of the Board

Doreen J. Addrizzo-Harris, MD, FCCP (ATS)
Sherry L. Barnhart, RRT, RRT-NPS, FAARC (AARC)
Todd G. Bocklage MPA, RRT (AARC)
Suzanne Bollig, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPSGT, R. EEG T., FAARC (AARC)
William W. Burgin, Jr., MD, FCCP (ATS)
Brian W. Carlin, MD, FCCP, FAARC (ACCP)
Robin J. Elwood, MD, FAAP (ASA)
Katherine L. Fedor, RRT, RRT-NPS, CPFT (AARC)
Hyacinth M. Johnson, RN, BSN, MPA, RRT (AARC)
Carl A. Kaplan, MD, FCCP (ACCP)
David C. Levin, MD, FCCP (ATS)
Robert A. May, MD, FCCP (ACCP)
Omid G. Moayed, MD, MBA (ASA)
Carl D. Mottram, BA, RRT, RPFT, FAARC (AARC)
Theodora (Dorre) K. Nicholau, MD, PhD (ASA)
Donald S. Prough, MD, FCCP (ASA)
Gregg L. Ruppel, MEd, RRT, RPFT, FAARC (AARC)
Robert A. Sinkin, MD, MPH, FAAP (ATS)
Mark S. Siobal, BS, RRT, RRT-ACCS, FAARC (AARC)
David L. Vines, MHS, RRT, FAARC (AARC)
Teresa A. Volsko, MHHS, RRT, FAARC (AARC)

Primary Functions of the NBRC

- Determine the job respiratory therapists perform
- Develop examinations that relate to job performance
- Administer and score examinations
- Award credentials to persons who pass
- Ensure NBRC credentials continue to have value

NBRC Credentials are Standards of Excellence

- Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT)
- Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT)
- Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialist (CRT-NPS or RRT-NPS)
- Sleep Disorders Specialist (CRT-SDS or RRT-SDS)
- Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT)
- Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT)
- Adult Critical Care Specialist (RRT-ACCS)

Five Steps to Construct Valid, Legally Defensible Examinations

1. Viability Study
 - Content experts: Unique job position; potential candidate pool?
2. Personnel Survey
 - Survey practicing professionals: Unique job position; potential candidate pool?
3. Job Analysis Study
 - Determines type, importance and time spent on tasks
4. Development of Test Specifications
 - Based on most significant tasks performed at a national level
5. Validation Study
 - Performance on test compared to immediate supervisor ratings

Examination questions are....

- Submitted by educators, practitioners, and physicians from around the country
- Evaluated and edited by testing experts
- Reviewed and further edited by NBRC examination committees
- Pretested before being used as scored questions on a credentialing examination

Passing scores are

- Established by NBRC examination committees and consultants using accepted, standardized procedures for establishing the minimum passing score (Cut Score)
 - Cut Score determination process
- Uniformly applied to all examinations to ensure all successful candidates have demonstrated the same level of competence regardless of the test form they took

NBRC Credentials are recognized by

- State licensure agencies
 - Currently, all states regulating respiratory care practice recognize the NBRC Examination as the requisite examination for demonstrating competence at beginning practice and allow CRTs and RRTs to receive licenses by reciprocity or endorsement without re-examination.
 - At RRT: California, Ohio
 - At CRT: all others

Self Assessment Tools

- Online Practice Examinations
 - Full length practice examinations for NBRC exams
 - Free of charge
- Web-Based Self-Assessment Examinations (SAEs)
 - Purchase online through our LXR Store
 - Available for all NBRC exams
 - Program directors may purchase group orders

Both available at www.nbrc.org

Self Assessment Examinations (SAE)

<u>Therapist Multiple-Choice SAE (Form 2015 A)</u>	\$50.00
Therapist Multiple-Choice Self-Assessment Examination for candidates testing after January 1, 2015	<u>Add to cart!</u>
<u>Therapist Multiple-Choice SAE (Form 2015 B)</u>	\$50.00
Therapist Multiple-Choice Self-Assessment Examination for candidates testing after January 1, 2015	<u>Add to cart!</u>
<u>Clinical Simulation SAE (Form 2015 A)</u>	\$70.00
Clinical Simulation Self-Assessment Examination for candidates testing after January 1, 2015	<u>Add to cart!</u>
<u>Clinical Simulation SAE (Form 2015 B)</u>	\$70.00
Clinical Simulation Self-Assessment Examination for candidates testing after January 1, 2015	<u>Add to cart!</u>
<u>Pulmonary Function Technologists (PFT) SAE</u>	\$40.00
Pulmonary Function Technology Self-Assessment Examination for candidates testing after June 15, 2015	<u>Add to cart!</u>
<u>ACCS SAE</u>	\$60.00
Self-Assessment Examination for Respiratory Therapists Specializing in Adult Critical Care testing after July 2012	<u>Add to cart!</u>
<u>NPS SAE</u>	\$45.00
Self-Assessment Examination for Respiratory Therapists Specializing in Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care testing after July 2011	<u>Add to cart!</u>
<u>SDS SAE</u>	\$60.00
Self-Assessment Examination for Respiratory Therapists Specializing in Sleep Disorders Testing and Therapeutic Intervention testing after December 2008	<u>Add to cart!</u>

NBRC Credentialing Examinations

- Process
 - Daily testing via computer Monday-Saturday
 - Two sessions per day - 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
 - Offered at over 195 Assessment Centers throughout the country
- Results
 - Candidates receive instant results upon leaving test center with photo printed on the score sheet
 - Reapplication instructions provided, if needed

Continuing Competency Program (CCP)

- Credentials earned after July 1, 2002:
 - Are valid for five years
 - Require participation in the NBRC Continuing Competency Program to remain valid
- Credentials earned prior to July 1, 2002:
 - Are valid indefinitely and not subject to the CCP
 - But individuals can voluntarily participate in the program

CCP Requirements: 3 Options

- CE Credit: 30 hours/5 years
 - AARC CRCE approved courses
 - Respiratory care specific courses approved for state license renewal/continuing education
- Pass examination for highest credential held
- Pass examination not previously completed

CCP Communication from NBRC

- General information is provided through the annual renewal process
- Individualized Notices:
 - Anniversary e-mail sent every year in the month the credential was earned
 - One year prior to expiration - official notice
 - Six months prior to expiration
 - 90-days prior to expiration
 - 30-days prior to expiration
 - Immediately upon expiration

CCP Continuing Education Submission

- Online process at www.nbrc.org
- Random audit
- Simple and easy
- Can renew via CE up until the day before credential expires

Judicial and Ethics Policies

- NBRC protects the public and the profession through the Judicial & Ethics Committee
- The Judicial & Ethics Committee takes action against people who:
 - Violate testing rules
 - Misuse credential trademarks
 - Commit practice-related offenses or serious crimes
 - Have their state license revoked or suspended

J & E General Process

- Complaint brought to NBRC attention
- Determine whether case warrants a committee hearing at the next J&E meeting
- Notify individual of hearing indent; allow defense
- Conduct the hearing; determine sanction
- Notify individual of hearing outcome; allow appeal
- Full Board of Trustees (w/o J&E Committee) hear appeal; final decision

Sanctions Available

- For exam candidates (NBRC cases):
 - Admonishment
 - Formal Censure
 - Removal from the examination process for a specified period
 - Removal from the examination process for a indefinite period

Sanctions Available

- For credentialed individuals (State cases):
 - Admonishment
 - Formal Censure
 - Removal from the Annual Directory for a specified or indefinite period (SOIP)
 - Disqualification from Recredentialing or Self-assessment programs
 - Removal from the examination process for a SOIP
 - Deletion from 'Active' credentialing status for a SOIP
 - Suspension of a credential for a SOIP
 - Suspension from the examination system for a SOIP
 - Mandatory reexamination to document continued competence

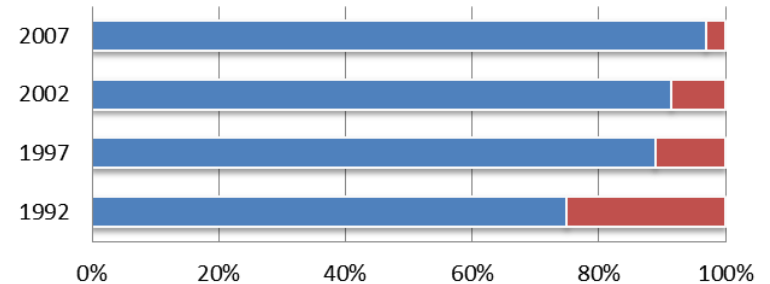
What's New at the NBRC?

- Following extensive, ongoing internal research regarding testing and measurement, the NBRC Board of Trustees voted (Dec. 2011) to evaluate implementing significant changes to the respiratory therapy credentialing system beginning in 2015.
- Changes include:
 - A single multiple choice examination with separate passing points for the CRT credential and eligibility for the Clinical Simulation Examination
 - A Clinical Simulation Examination which includes a larger number of shorter simulation problems.

Convergence of Tasks

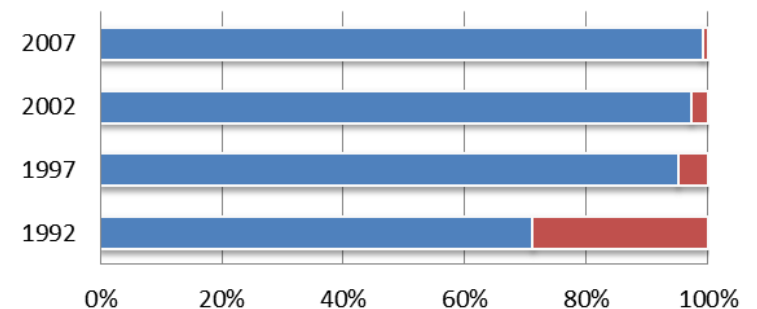
Over the last 4 job analysis studies, the subset of 'RRT-only' content **shown in red** has shrunk

Application of Importance Criterion



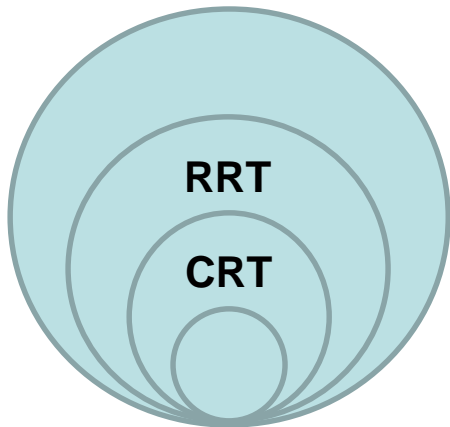
	1992	1997	2002	2007
■ Converged Content	75%	89%	92%	97%
■ Independent Content	25%	11%	9%	3%

Application of Extent Criterion

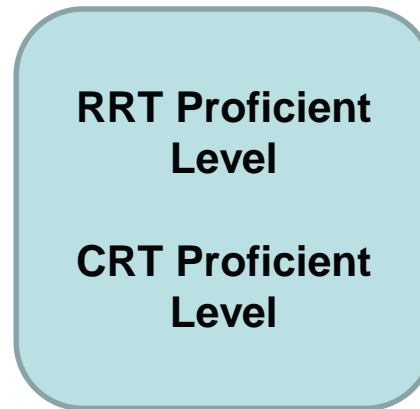


	1992	1997	2002	2007
■ Converged Content	71%	95%	97%	99%
■ Independent Content	29%	5%	3%	1%

Previous Concept



Current Concept



New Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) Examination

- Examination length:
 - Remains at 140 scored items and 20 pretest items (don't contribute to scores)
- Two cut scores. Candidates with test scores at or above the:
 - LOWER cut score, are granted the CRT credential
 - HIGHER cut score, are also be eligible to take the Clinical Simulation Examination

CRT vs TMC Test Spec Comparison

- Content Domain Specs

	ITEMS ON EXAMINATIONS	
DOMAIN	CRT	TMC
I. PATIENT DATA	26	55
II. EQUIPMENT	29	20
III. INTERVENTIONS	85	65
Totals	140	140

- Cognitive Level Specs

	ITEMS ON EXAMINATIONS	
LEVEL	CRT	TMC
RECALL	35	31
APPLICATION	74	61
ANALYSIS	31	48
Totals	140	140

Changes to the Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE)

- Previous CSE
 - 10 long scored problems (plus 1 non-scored pre-test item)
 - Instant scoring limits ability to update existing problems or to add new ones
 - Information Gathering and Decision Making are 2 separate scores
- New/Current CSE:
 - 20 problems, half the length of the current problems (plus 2 pre-test items)
 - Easier to make changes or add new problems
 - Must have obtained the higher cut score on the Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination to be eligible for the CSE
 - Information Gathering and Decision Making are 1 combined score

CSE: Previous vs New Specs

TYPE OF PROBLEM	SPECIFICATIONS	
	Old 10-Problem	New 20-Problem
A1. COPD Conservative Care	1 or 2	2
A2. COPD Critical Care	1 or 2	2
B. Trauma	1 or 2	3
C. Cardiovascular	1 or 2	3
D. Neurological / Neurosurgical	1 or 2	2
E. Pediatric	1	2
F. Neonatal	1	2
G. General Medical / Surgical	optional	4

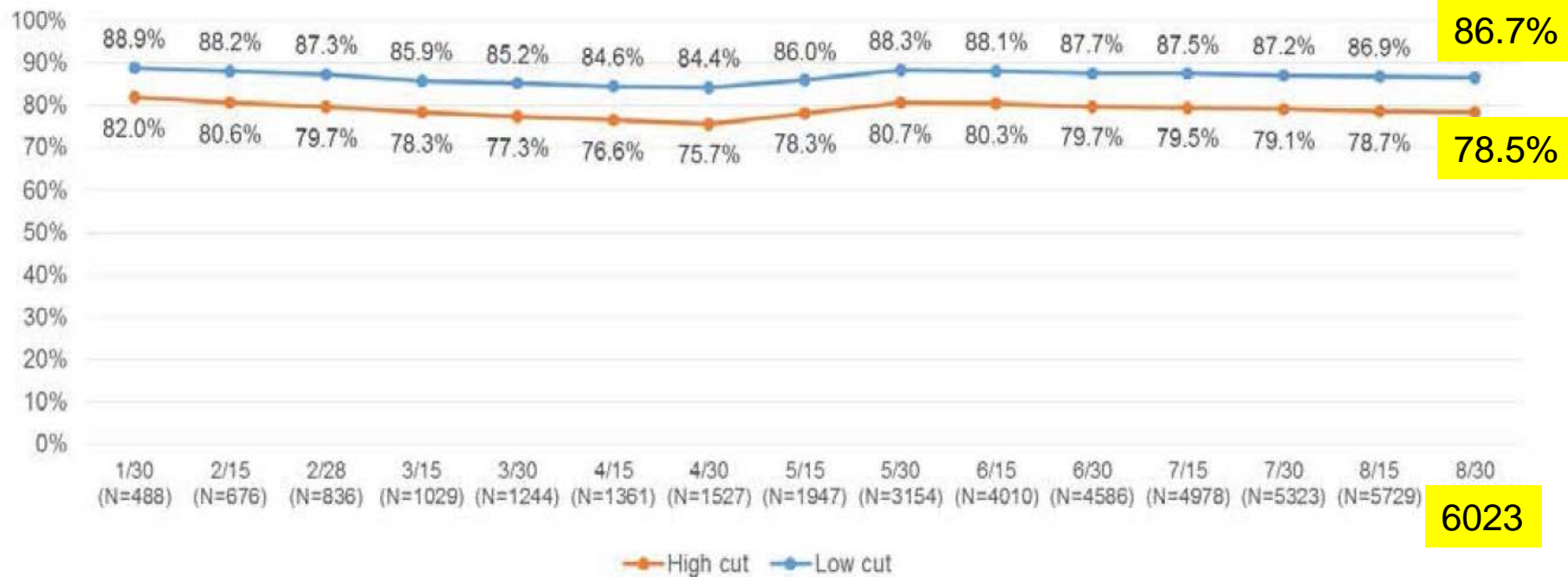
Previous vs New RRT Credentialing Program Elements

PROGRAM ELEMENTS	NUMBERS	
	Old	New
Examinations	3	2
Testing sessions for a candidate who passes on the first attempt	3	2
Hours of test		7
Sets of test		2
Passing po		3
Multiple-choice items to assess competencies broadly	240	140
Patient management problems to assess competencies deeply	10	20
Typical number of sections in a patient management problem	10 (8-12)	5 (4-6)

\$190 Savings

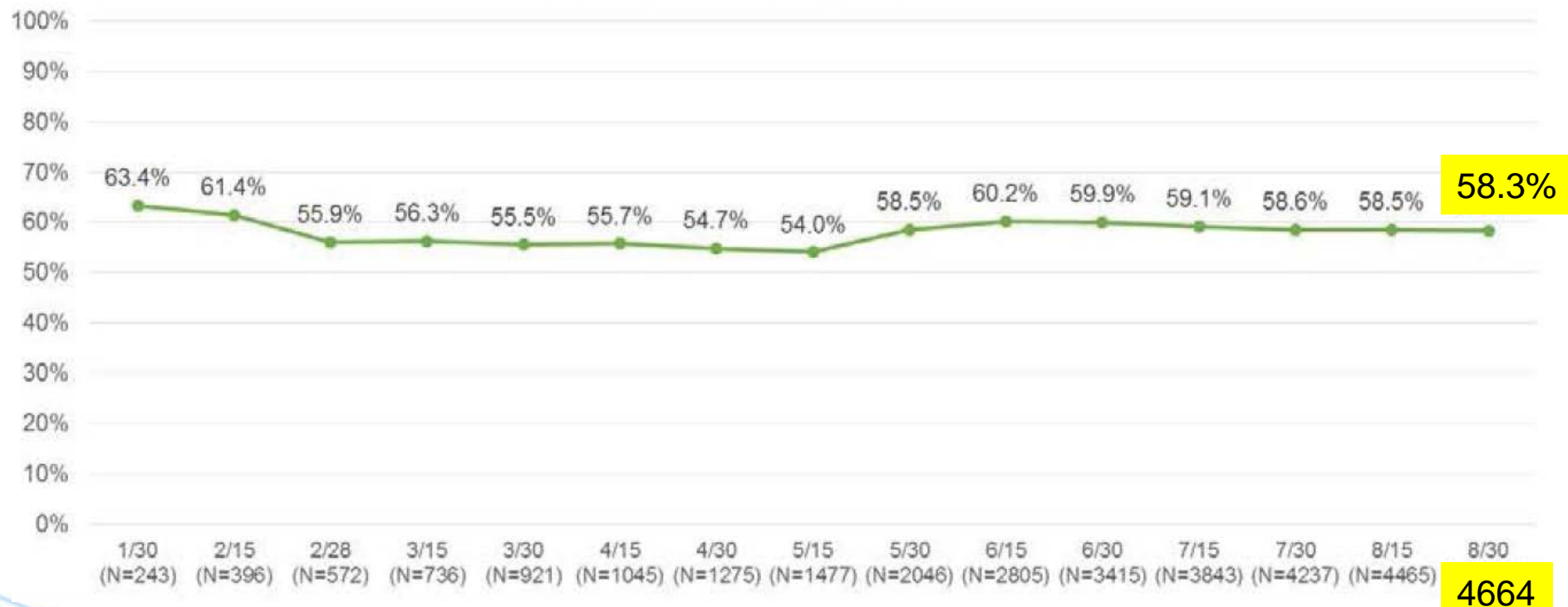
How the TMC Is Performing

TMC First-Time Candidate Pass Rate



How the CSE Is Performing

CSE First-Time Candidate Pass Rate



PFT Examination Changes

- CPFT and RPFT written exams are being redeveloped to become a single written exam with two cut scores
 - Passing the lower level, CPFT credential granted
 - Passing higher level, RPFT credential granted

NBRC website



The screenshot shows the NBRC website interface. At the top left is the NBRC logo with the text "The National Board for Respiratory Care". To the right of the logo, the phone number "888.341.4811" and email "nbrc-info@nbrc.org" are displayed. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search this site...". A horizontal navigation bar contains the following links: ACCS, CPFT, CRT, NPS, RPFT, RRT, and SDS. On the left side, a vertical menu lists the following options: HOME, ABOUT NBRC, DOCUMENT LIBRARY, FAQs, CREDENTIALLED PRACTITIONERS, EXAMINATIONS, EDUCATORS, STATE LICENSURE, CONTACT NBRC, and NBRC NEWS. The main content area features a large photograph of a diverse group of healthcare professionals in white lab coats. At the bottom of the page, a row of four links is provided: Annual Renewal, All Directory, Continuing Competency Program, and What's New *.

NBRC
The National Board for Respiratory Care

888.341.4811
nbrc-info@nbrc.org

Search this site...

ACCS CPFT CRT NPS RPFT RRT SDS

HOME
ABOUT NBRC
DOCUMENT LIBRARY
FAQS
CREDENTIALLED PRACTITIONERS
EXAMINATIONS
EDUCATORS
STATE LICENSURE
CONTACT NBRC
NBRC NEWS

Annual Renewal All Directory Continuing Competency Program What's New *

www.NBRC.org

- NBRC Horizons
- Active Directory
- ALL Listing of Credentialed Practitioners
- Annual Renewal
- Pins/Patches/Credential Verification Requests
- Examination Information and Scheduling
- Practice Examinations
- Self-Assessment Examinations

HOME

ABOUT NBRC

DOCUMENT LIBRARY

FAQS

CREDENTIALLED
PRACTITIONERS

EXAMINATIONS

EDUCATORS

STATE LICENSURE

CONTACT NBRC

NBRC NEWS

QUICK LINKS

Assessment Centers

Free Practice
Examination

General FAQs

Self-Assessment
Examination

Submit an Online
Application

DOCUMENTS

ACCS Application
Instructions

ACCS Detailed Content
Outline

Candidate Handbook

NBRC Continuing
Competency Program
Brochure

Printable Specialty
Application



Adult Critical Care Specialty Examination

Admission Requirements | Free Practice Examination | FAQs

In 2012, the NBRC launched a new specialty examination for respiratory therapists working in adult critical care settings. We sought input from a variety of organizations representing professionals involved in the arena of adult critical care so we could create a valuable credential that your employer, colleagues and patients will recognize and respect.

This specialty examination program was built on a collaborative effort with other organizations with a vested interest in protecting the public and improving care for adult patients receiving treatment in critical care settings. Because of this effort, this program was wide support from organizations such as:

- The American Association for Respiratory Care
- The American College of Chest Physicians
- The American Society of Anesthesiologists
- The American Thoracic Society

The Adult Critical Care Specialty Examination program is designed specifically for a respiratory therapist with the RRT credential and experience in the field of adult critical care.

Eligible certificants have already demonstrated advanced knowledge in the field of respiratory care; therefore this examination will focus on competencies unique to therapists practicing in an adult critical care setting and not basic competencies of general respiratory care.

Why should you earn the RRT-ACCS credential? The answer is simple—this specialty examination is unique to your daily tasks as an adult critical care specialist. It goes above and beyond general respiratory care activities so you can demonstrate your enhanced skill level in a fast-growing specialty within the field.

If you are planning to take any of the credentialing examinations offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc. (NBRC), the Self-Assessment Examination provides an excellent opportunity for you to find out in advance how well you will do. The SAEs are available in web-based format and more information can be found by clicking the Self-Assessment Examination Quick Link.

Admission Requirements

1. Be an RRT with at least one year of full-time clinical experience in a critical care setting (e.g. intensive care unit, emergency room, post-anesthesia recovery unit, long-term acute care setting).

**Full time experience is defined as a minimum of 21 hours per week per calendar year in a critical care setting under medical supervision following Certification (MD, DO or PhD) acceptable to the Board. Clinical experience must be completed before the candidate applies for this examination.*

Each exam page has
'extra' information

- Links to important information and helpful documents

Other Activities

- New test specifications for Sleep Disorders Examination to be implemented in 2016
- Recertification Commission convened to review the Continuing Competency Program
 - CCP initiated in 2002
 - National Commission for Certifying Agencies standards updated in 2014
 - First meeting September 17
 - Represented by all stakeholders

Other Activities

- AARC and NBRC collaboration and CCP
 - Process to allow AARC CRCE data to transmit directly into the NBRC's online recertification database
 - Functionality launched on September 17, 2015

Examination Vouchers Now Available

- Allows third parties to pay the full examination fee and receive a voucher code to be dispersed to examination candidates.
- Candidates input the voucher code when applying for the examination to receive the examination fee credit.
- Vouchers are only valid for:
 - One year from the date of purchase, and
 - The specific examination purchased
- Details on how to purchase vouchers will be sent to all program directors via email in the coming weeks.

How to Contact the NBRC...

NBRC Executive Office
18000 W. 105th Street
Olathe, KS, USA 66061
Toll Free - 888-341-4811
913-895-4900
Fax 913-895-4650

www.nbrc.org

nbrc-info@nbrc.org

Thank You!

