



MSRC POSITION STATEMENT

DEFINITION OF 'RESPIRATORY THERAPIST'

Breathing life into your career

Adopted April 7, 1995

Retired Oct 8, 2018 - replicated in Statute

The Michigan Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC) is a chartered affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care. The MSRC is committed to ensuring high-quality, cost-effective respiratory care in a variety of care settings by promoting a minimum level of professional competency within the practice of the profession.

- Respiratory Therapists are health professionals responsible for providing patient care services to individuals with disorders and diseases of the cardiopulmonary system, including life support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- Respiratory Therapists have been recognized in Senate Bill 452 as health professionals authorized to assess a person's vital signs and, in the absence of vital signs and in the presence of appropriate evidence of a do-not-resuscitate order, are authorized to independently execute that do-not-resuscitate order.
- This patient assessment and withholding of medical intervention requires a great deal of training, experience and competence on the part of the health professional executing such an order. While most Respiratory Therapists in the State are adequately trained, there currently exists no statutory or other requirement for the minimum training, experience or competency of Respiratory Therapists in Michigan.

For these reasons, the MSRC supports the following definition of Respiratory Therapist.

'Respiratory Therapist' means an individual who has achieved all of the following:

1. Successful completion of an accredited Respiratory Therapist training program; and
2. Conferment of a minimum two-year Associate Degree from an accredited educational institution; and
3. Successful completion of the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) board examinations administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC).