



MICHIGAN SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE ADVANCED PRACTICE RESPIRATORY THERAPIST (APRT)

The Michigan Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC), a chartered affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), is committed to ensuring the quality of respiratory care provided in the State of Michigan will conform to the highest standards of clinical practice based upon evidence-based medicine, and the art and practice of respiratory care will comply with both the language and intent of the statute enabling licensure of respiratory therapists.

The MSRC advocates for the position of an advanced practice respiratory therapist position as a mid-level provider. In accordance with the AARC, the Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist (APRT) is a trained, credentialed, and licensed respiratory care practitioner who is employed to provide a scope of practice that exceeds that of the registered respiratory therapist (RRT). After obtaining the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) RRT credential, the aspiring APRT must successfully complete a Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)-accredited APRT graduate level education and training program that provides a curricular emphasis that enables the APRT to provide evidence-based, complex diagnostic, and therapeutic clinical practice and disease management. Under the leadership of a physician, the APRT is expected to:

- Serve as a physician extender in both pulmonary medicine and critical care
- Provide access to cost effective, quality care by:
 - Facilitating the implementation of clinical respiratory treatment protocols
 - Facilitating the management and weaning of patients from mechanical ventilation
 - Improving appropriateness and efficiency of respiratory care
- Ensure the delivery of “best practice” respiratory care which will:
 - Improve patient clinical outcomes
 - Improve patient safety
 - Optimize allocation of respiratory care
 - Reduce length of stay and hospital readmission

References

American Association for Respiratory Care (2016). Board Moves on Key Initiatives. Retrieved from <http://www.aarc.org/aarc-board-moves-on-key-initiatives/>

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (2016). Accreditation Standards for Advanced Practice Programs in Respiratory Care. Retrieved from <https://coarc.com/CoARC/media/Documents/APRT-Standards-effective-11-13-16.pdf>