



## Michigan Society For Respiratory Care

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### POSITION STATEMENT BY THE MICHIGAN SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

#### LICENSURE OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS IN MICHIGAN IS REQUIRED FOR THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE PRACTICE OF RESPIRATORY CARE

Adopted, August 3, 2012  
Amended, December 7, 2018

WHEREAS, the Michigan Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC) is a chartered affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care and, as such, has the power and authority to promulgate Clinical Practice Standards and Guidelines to direct and influence the evidence-based Practice of Respiratory Care in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the MSRC attests that the licensure of Respiratory Therapists (also known as Respiratory Care Practitioners) in the State of Michigan meets or exceeds all seven validation criteria as published by the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs in their Guidelines and Criteria for Licensing Occupations; namely,

- There is great risk for harm to the consumer by poorly-trained, incompetent, or negligent individuals performing respiratory care services, or by individuals who have had licensure actions enforced upon them in other states and who then come to Michigan to work; and
- Respiratory therapists have specialized skills and training, and must complete a specialized, college-based educational training program from an accredited college, and must also successfully complete a rigorous national credentialing process before they are eligible to apply for state licensure; and
- Economic costs are revenue neutral with license fees covering the operational cost of regulating the profession, and licensure not driving up health care costs because respiratory therapist wages are market-driven, and entry into the profession is not artificially restricted; and
- There is no alternative to state regulation as the respiratory therapist national credentialing process is voluntary and has no legal jurisdiction in Michigan, and health care provider accrediting and regulatory agencies do not specify clinical practice standards or minimum levels of clinical competence; and
- Respiratory therapists have a clearly distinguishable scope of practice in a profession where extensive, highly-specialized life-saving skills, knowledge, and training are required, and in which there exists a significant potential risk of harm to the public due to incompetent or negligent practice; and
- Respiratory therapists perform direct patient care autonomously under the prescription of a physician, practice under general supervision with great independent action and discretionary judgment, and are authorized to independently implement the provisions of the Michigan Do-Not-Resuscitate Procedures Act; and



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- Respiratory therapists are licensed and regulated in 49 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, that the MSRC endorses licensing of respiratory therapists to provide Respiratory Care services to ensure patients receive safe, competent and ethical care.