**From:** [Doorley, Barbara](mailto:Barbara.Doorley@westerlyhospital.org)

**To:** [DPH-Testimony, Reg (DPH)](mailto:RTestimony@MassMail.State.MA.US)

**Subject:** 261cmr 5.00 / Proposed changes in renewal for Respiratory Care license in MA

**Date:** Monday, June 25, 2018 5:34:38 PM

Barbara Doorley 11 Birchwood Way

East Greenwich, RI 02818 June 25, 2018

Mass Board of Respiratory Care

I am a RRT that holds a respiratory care license in MA and RI.

I often attend conferences and classes for my CEU’s; and I understand the importance of keeping up with the profession.

However, the suggested requirements to renew the MA Respiratory license in 2020 seem to be a bit excessive.

A therapist realizes the topics needed, and those that interest the specific field in which we practice. The continuing education units relate to new medications, new modes of therapy of a vent or a new/review of a device

being used to improve a patient’s respiratory status. CEU’s help us to better understand a CXR or lab work; discuss new

finding for cure of certain diseases … new adjuncts to better deliver treatment to our patients.

These topics will vary a

bit for us … depending if we work in pulmonary rehab, acute care, home care or PICU! National conferences put on by AARC

and other respiratory organizations, do a great job at offering a wide selection of topics to choose from … and we choose

them according to our specialty.

As for improving medical records, reducing errors, professional conduct and ethics, recognizing/preventing patient abuse,

patient safety and infection control …and such, hospitals(and others places of work) have ALL medical employees do yearly

competencies of such topics. These topics are not specific to RESPIRATORY alone … and can probably be found on record at

our places of work … so if the state of MA is going to want these topics as part of the RT license renewal, we should be able

to get a certificate from our employer stating this has been accomplished … and not have to find a class or seminar needing

us to pay to prove we have done this to renew our license. Do the nurses in MA have to take such classes to renew their

licenses?

I agree that half the CEU’s should be “live” and not all done “online”; but I also believe that such opportunities to attend these

“live” educational situations need to be offered often and throughout the state of MA … with perhaps paid educational days

by the employer. The fees of a seminar or conference can be $80-350 to attend, and being that our salaries don’t compare to

that of an RN, it seems unjust that RT’s requirements should be more than what it takes for an RN to renew their license.

I can’t imagine what sparked doubling the amount of CEU’s for respiratory care practitioners in the state of MA, but I’d hate to

see the state lose a group of patient advocates with life- saving knowledge because the demands for license renewal got out

of control.

I suggest your board re-evaluate your intentions. Hold meetings with actual RRT’s and make the best decision for MA RT’s and

the patients they take care of. Sincerely,

Barbara Doorley, RRT, BS

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