

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE

Policy No. RC-08-01

[Adopted October 15, 2008, revised 7-21-15]

Continuing Education Credits  
for  
Examination Preparatory Courses in Advanced Level Specialties

The purpose of Policy No. RC-09-01 is to identify for licensees of the Massachusetts Board of Respiratory Care ("Board") the circumstances in which the Board may grant licensees continuing education credit for examination preparatory courses in advanced level specialties.

Board regulations at 261 CMR 5.00 *et seq.* provide specific requirements for continuing education. Regulations at 261 CMR 5.05 (3) (b) state that "the following activities shall not qualify as appropriate continuing education: ...certification and recertification in Basic Cardiac Life Support [CPR]."

Examination preparatory courses for certification in such specialties as registered respiratory therapy (RRT), registered pulmonary function technology (RPFT), certified pulmonary function technology (CPFT), neonatal/pediatric respiratory care specialty (NPS) are examples of examination preparatory courses that the Board may find acceptable for continuing education credit. In requesting continuing education credit for such a course, a licensee, upon request, must provide to the Board documentation from the course provider satisfactory to the Board of the full course title, the number of hours of the course and the number of continuing education units awarded.

The Board will not grant continuing education credit for Basic Cardiac Life Support courses, or CPR. However, a licensee may request continuing education credit *once* for successfully completing courses to obtain *initial* certification in *advanced* level specialties. Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), and pediatric advanced life support (PALS) are examples of advanced level certification courses that the Board may find acceptable for continuing education credit