

Colorado Respiratory Therapists Licensure

-- Update 2003 --

State of Colorado
Department of Regulatory Agencies
Bill Owens, Governor
Richard F. O'Donnell, Executive Director
Rosemary McCool, Division Director

CHANGES ARE IN THE WORKS

About a year ago, the Division of Registrations, which provides administrative and program support to your Office of Respiratory Therapy Licensure, began a major business transformation and automation replacement effort. This effort has been named "Project T: Transformation." The goal of the project is to provide you with enhanced customer service by combining several functions such as licensing, cash management and central intake. The Division is also updating its computer licensing system, so in the future, we can accept online credit card payments and to provide other online functions including license application, renewal and verification transactions, and online address changes.

We hope that for you, our customer, these changes are "transparent." Our intent is that customers of the Division will only see improvements in timeliness, automation (Internet/computer based functions), access to information and ease of interaction. At the same time, the Division is very concerned about retaining those things that are working well now, such as good customer service and individual attention to needs.

Since the last renewal, there has been another major change in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) that oversees the Division of Registrations. M. Michael Cooke, the former Executive Director of DORA, was appointed to head the Department of Revenue in January by Governor Owens. The new Executive Director of DORA is Richard F. O'Donnell, who also continues in his former capacity as Director of Policy and Research in the Governor's Office while overseeing DORA.

RENEWAL

This year's renewal fee is \$35, the same as last year. If you send in your payment after August 31, 2003, there is a \$15 delinquency fee added, for a total renewal fee of \$50. If you have not paid by November 1, 2003, you must contact the office for reinstatement information.

During the 2002 renewal period, 1,934 renewals were mailed to respiratory therapists. Out of that number, 1,790 renewed during the scheduled renewal period, or 93 percent. One hundred forty-four licenses were lapsed, but some have since reinstated.

LICENSING

Colorado now has 1,873 active respiratory therapists. Between June 1, 2002, and the date this newsletter was prepared, 210 respiratory therapists received licenses.

NEW RULE

On September 27, 2002, the Director of Registrations adopted and promulgated the following rule that became effective November 1, 2002:

Rule 1 – Oxygen Deliveries

The purpose of this rule is to define the respiratory therapy services that can be rendered by an unlicensed person delivering oxygen supplies as exempted from the practice of respiratory therapy in § 12-41.5-110(2)(e), C.R.S.

- A. An unlicensed delivery person can deliver, setup, inspect and maintain an oxygen apparatus in a patient's home. An unlicensed delivery person may also instruct the patient about the apparatus' operation.
- B. An unlicensed delivery person may not perform pulse oximetry testing, interpret or report physician orders, titrate the oxygen level, discuss disease status with the patient, or engage in any other task or duty that constitutes the practice of respiratory therapy as defined in § 12-41.5-103(6), C.R.S.
- C. This rule does not pertain to other licensed health-care professionals practicing within the permitted scope of their profession.

COMPLAINTS

Between June 1, 2002, and the date this newsletter was compiled, there have been 7 complaints lodged against respiratory therapists. Allegations include practicing beyond the scope, felony conviction, substance abuse, engaging in substandard care, and practicing on a lapsed license.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

A total of five licensees have been disciplined since the 2002 newsletter was printed. They are as follows:

REVOCAATION:	Suzi Tearpak (March 12, 2003)
PROBATION:	Faramarz Motlagh-Arani (December 24, 2002) Peggy Westmoreland (January 28, 2003)
LETTER OF ADMONITION:	Sherri Smith (April 23, 2003) Kimberly Kirin (May 2, 2003)

Four complaints were dismissed, and three are still pending.

NOTICE TO RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

Section 24-34-107(1) of the Colorado Revised Statutes requires that every application by an individual for a license issued pursuant to the authority set forth in title 12, C.R.S., by the Department of Regulatory Agencies, shall require the applicant's social security number. Disclosure of your social security number is mandatory for purposes of establishing, modifying, or enforcing child support under § 14-14-113 and § 26-13-126, C.R.S.; locating an individual who is under an obligation to pay child support as required by § 26-13-107(3)(a)(I)(A), C.R.S.; and reporting disciplinary actions to the Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank as required by 45 CFR §§ 61.1 et seq. Failure to provide your social security number for these mandatory purposes will result in the denial of your licensure application. Disclosure of your social security number is voluntary for disclosure to other state regulatory agencies, testing and examination vendors, law enforcement agencies, and other private federations and associations involved in professional regulation for identification purposes only. Your social security number will not be released for any other purpose not provided for by law.