



APPENDIX F STATE LICENSURE

On October 1, 1984, the State of Florida adopted a State Licensure Regulation for Respiratory Therapists and Respiratory Care Practitioners. It states, in part, that “no person in the state of Florida shall perform respiratory care procedures except under the provisions of the *Respiratory Care Act* (Florida State Statutes, Chapter 468).” Examination and licensure procedures are to be followed by all respiratory care personnel.

Program graduates must apply to the Florida Department of Health’s Board of Respiratory Care for licensure. Instructions and assistance are provided to students in the proper completion of these forms. Any modification to the application process is disseminated to students. Certain conditions or criminal convictions (e.g., certain felonies, alcohol and other drug-related offenses, and psychological disorders), may preclude an individual’s ability to obtain licensure. A student with concerns regarding these restrictions must contact the Polk State Respiratory Care Program Director or the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DPBR).

The Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) Credential: Each graduate of this program is required to take the **TMC (Therapist Multiple Choice) Exam** administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). Upon passing by the requisite “cut score,” the student is reciprocally granted the NBRC Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential in accordance with the Florida Department of Health’s Board of Respiratory Care.

Students are required to apply directly to the National Board of Respiratory Care to take the NBRC-TMC Exam. Upon successful completion of the exam with an appropriate score, the individual can apply to the Florida Department of Health’s Board of Respiratory Care for licensure by endorsement. Important notices and announcements related to credentialing are posted on the Board of Respiratory Care webpage at: floridasrespiratorycare.gov/. Additionally, this site provides access to the *Practice Act*, related rules and disciplinary actions, minutes from board meetings, information about credential renewal, and licensure application forms.

The Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Credential: Once the program graduate has completed the **TMC (Therapist Multiple Choice) Exam** with the requisite higher “cut score,” he or she is eligible to sit for the NBRC **Clinical Simulation Examinations**. Upon passing both parts of the registry examinations, endorsement is provided through the state by completing the required forms issued by the Department of Health’s Florida Board of Respiratory Care.

All NBRC credentialing examinations first require successful completion of the **TMC Exam**. Once the individual is registry eligible, the clinical simulation exams must be successfully completed to obtain the **RRT credential**. Testing is available to candidates year-round at local computer centers.

The Florida Department of Health regulates the practice of Respiratory Therapy under *Florida Statute Chapter 468* and its related rules and amendments.

Respiratory Care Resources and Related Websites:

National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC):	www.nbrc.org
American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)	www.aarc.org
Florida Society for Respiratory Care (FSRC)	www.fsrc.org
Florida Department of Health (FLDOH)	www.floridahealth.gov