

Opinion Statement

Delivery, setup, and demonstration of respiratory care equipment in the home by unlicensed/non-certified personnel

The Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care (KBRC) is authorized by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 314A to regulate respiratory care practitioners, respiratory practice, and continuing education requirements in order to assure that safe and effective respiratory care is provided to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Specifically, one of the duties of the KBRC is to evaluate the qualifications of applicants. In assigning this task to the KBRC, the General Assembly recognized this state agency as being uniquely qualified to determine the qualifications of persons delivering respiratory care services to the health care consuming public.

In the Commonwealth of Kentucky, unlicensed or non-certified individuals who deliver prescribed respiratory care equipment may deliver, setup, calibrate, and demonstrate for the patient, family, or caregiver only its mechanical operation (on and off switches, emergency button, etc.). Demonstration is not to be interpreted as the teaching, administration, or performance of respiratory care procedures. Unlicensed or non-certified individuals may not attach the equipment to the patient or instruct the patient, family, or caregiver on its use as a treatment device.

Patients, family, or caregivers must be taught to use the equipment by a respiratory care practitioner certified by KBRC, or any other licensed practitioner operating within their scope of practice, either through follow-up after delivery or on an identical model in the healthcare facility prior to discharge. Any instructions to the patient regarding the clinical use of the equipment, any patient monitoring, patient assessment, or other procedures designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment must be performed by a respiratory care practitioner certified by the KBRC or any other licensed practitioner operating within their scope of practice.

In order for unlicensed/non-certified personnel to deliver, set up, calibrate, and demonstrate equipment as outlined in paragraph two, the employer must document that the individual has obtained adequate training and demonstrated competence under the supervision of a respiratory care practitioner certified by the KBRC or some other duly licensed health care practitioner.

Note: Unlicensed sleep techs cannot be used for setups. It must be performed by a licensed respiratory therapist.

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