

## Position Statement

# Respiratory Care Practitioner's Role in Conscious Sedation

Respiratory Care Practitioners are prepared through formal didactic and clinical educational experience, and through nationally validated credentialing examination processes. Respiratory Care Practitioners, through training and routine job descriptions and responsibilities, are prepared to manage risks to the cardiorespiratory systems associated with the administration of conscious sedation agents. The American Society of Anesthesiology in its position statement of 1996 has published and publicly recognized non-physicians as being capable of administration and monitoring of patients receiving conscious sedation. The Assistant Attorney General to the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision has reviewed the Respiratory Care Practice Act and subsequently has reported to the Respiratory Care Advisory Committee conscious sedation drug administration and monitoring are within the scope of practice of Respiratory Care Practitioners pursuant to the Act.

The Respiratory Care Advisory Committee to the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision recommends adoption of the following "Respiratory Care Practitioner Conscious Sedation Guidelines" delineating the roles and responsibilities of Respiratory Care Practitioners associated in the provision of care to patients receiving conscious sedation:

- 1) The "advanced practitioner" registered respiratory therapist (RRT), having demonstrated through competency and skills assessment, may under the supervision of a duly license physician, assist physicians during diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures with patient assessment, administration of prescribed medications, and patient monitoring.
- 2) The "entry-level" certified respiratory therapist (CRT), having demonstrated through competency and skills assessment, may under the supervision of a duly licensed physician, assist physicians during diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures with patient assessment and monitoring.
- 3) Training, competency and skills assessment and verification shall be consistent with the position of the American Society of Anesthesiology; shall be comprehensive in content to assure patient safety, shall be consistent with training, competency and skills assessment of other non-physician health care professionals duly authorized to administer/monitor conscious sedation, and shall be congruent with the rules and regulations of the healthcare organization, its medical staff and any relevant regulatory/accreditation body.

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