

Politics and the Respiratory Professional

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Topics

- National issues
 - Pulmonary rehabilitation
 - Oxygen DME coverage
 - Medicare Part B RT initiative
- State issues
 - License fees increase
 - Issues concerning scope of practice
 - Organizational changes in the Department of Health

National Issues

- Pulmonary Rehab
 - Was attached and passed last year as part of Medicare reform
 - Medicare is currently working on rules for coverage
 - Coverage is set to take effect January 1, 2010

National Issues

- Oxygen durable medical equipment
 - Rule change several years ago set transferred ownership of home oxygen equipment to patients after 36 months
 - AARC / RCSW opposed this rule change
 - New group formed to assist in ‘oxygen reform’

National Issues

- Medicare Part B Initiative
 - House resolution 1077
 - Senate resolution 343
- Would Amend Medicare Part B to include respiratory therapists
 - Qualified respiratory therapists would be allowed to provide care under general supervision of a physician
 - Respiratory therapists could then act as ‘physician extenders’
 - This is not an expansion of our scope of practice, rather its an expansion of the settings of practice

Medicare Part B Initiative

- Why does the AARC & RCSW support this?
 - Better access for pulmonary patients to our services in home and physician's offices
 - Decreased hospital admissions
 - Validation for work being done by respiratory therapists was in home care
 - New area for job growth

Medicare Part B Initiative

- Requirements for respiratory therapist delivering care under Medicare Part B
 - Hold advanced registered respiratory therapist (RRT) credential
 - Hold a bachelor's degree
 - A BSRT is NOT a requirement
 - Any BS or BA will suffice
 - Why this requirements?
 - Similar requirements are held for other professions who are providing advance practice under general supervision

- Who is supporting us from Washington State?
 - No co-sponsors on HR 1077 in the house
 - No co-sponsors on S 343 in the Senate

What can you do

- Get Involved!!
 - Write or call congress to support the Medicare Part B Bills
 - Ask our patients to support us
 - Visit the RCSW booth to learn more!

State Issues

- Fees increase:
 - New fee structure made effective 9/1/2008

Fee Type	\$\$
New Application	\$150
Temp Practice. Permit	\$50
Renewal	\$110
Late renewal fee	\$55

State Issues

- Why did the DOH increase our license fee??
 - By law, RT licensure program must be self sufficient



State Issues

- Organizational changes at the DOH
 - DOH changed from 'silos' to 'functions'
 - DOH implemented a new licensure computer system:
 - ILIRS
 - Respiratory therapy program under new management

State Issues

- Scope of Practice issues
 - CPAP home delivery
 - ECMO
 - CNA's giving inhaled medications

Come visit the RCSW booth write a letter to congress and enter to win an i-pod!

Questions?

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