

RRT ESTABLISHED AS MINIMUM EXAM REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSURE

On July 23, 2014 AB 1972 was signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., establishing the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) exam as the minimum requirement for licensure effective January 1, 2015. Therefore, the Respiratory Care Board (Board) will no longer recognize passage of the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) examination by new graduates for licensure as of January 1, 2015.

Per the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), October 31 is last day to file an application online for the current version of CRT exam, and must be scheduled before the end of this year. This rule is being applied to allow the NBRC a transition period to implement its new exam format, which combines the written portions of the CRT and RRT examinations. Students who file an application online with the NBRC on or after November 1 will be scheduled to take the new exam on or after January 15, 2015.

What this means for students/applicants to ensure a smooth application process during this transition:

- Those students who file an application with the Board for licensure prior to December 31, 2014, must also apply online to take the CRT exam with the NBRC by October 31, 2014 and pass the CRT exam prior to December 31, 2014.*
- Those students who have already filed an application with the Board for licensure, must apply online with the NBRC to take or retake the CRT exam prior to October 31, 2014 and pass the CRT exam prior to December 31, 2014.*
- Those students who miss the October 31, 2014 deadline to apply online with NBRC, may apply to take the CRT examination through the NBRC's "special application" found at: <http://www.nbrc.org/Documents/NBRC%20CRT%20and%20RRT%20Special%20Application.pdf>.* Per NBRC's website, this "Special Application" only covers the period of November 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. ... "[Applicants] will need to complete the special application and fax it to 913.895.4650 or mail it to 18000 W 105th St, Olathe, KS 66061. [Applicants] will not be able to apply online. Please keep in mind if [applicants] submit this special application, [they] will not receive a full 90-day eligibility window. If [applicants] do not schedule [their] testing appointment during [their] eligibility window, [they] will forfeit [their] entire [NBRC] application fee." Applicants must still file an application for licensure with the Board and pass the CRT exam prior to December 31, 2014.
- Those students who **do not** meet the criteria above will be required to take the new Therapist Multiple Choice Examination (the new version of the NBRC exam which will be available 1/15/15), and pass the RRT examination to qualify for licensure. The cost for the Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination will remain the same as the current cost for the CRT examination (\$190 for new applicants and \$150 for repeat applicants). However, students/applicants taking the new exam will now be required to apply for (and pass) the Clinical Simulation Examination, which includes a fee of \$200 (for both new and repeat applicants).*

* We encourage students/applicants to verify CRT admission requirements as it meets each individual's circumstances with the NBRC at: www.nbrc.org (under the FAQ section) or 888.341.4811.

After December 31, 2014, the Board's office will continue to issue an Applicant Work Permit for initial applicants for a period of 90 days and failure of the exam will result in the rescission of the work permit. However, if the applicant passes the CRT portion of the written exam, he or she may qualify for an extension up to an additional 90 days depending upon when the initial application was filed or the applicant's graduation date (whichever is later).

Please contact the Board at 916.999.2190, or toll free at 866.375.0386 if you have any questions.