



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
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Dear CEO:

Quality and safety are foremost in the minds of health care consumers. The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), the professional organization for respiratory therapists, stresses patient safety above all else.

Providing access to credentialed respiratory therapists is essential to assuring safe and effective respiratory therapy services for your long-term care residents. The peer-reviewed literature has documented that the provision of respiratory care services is enhanced and optimized when those services are delivered by educated and credentialed respiratory therapists.

Employing these high quality health care providers ensures residents in your facility are receiving the most appropriate and efficiently delivered respiratory therapy services.

A program by the AARC informs consumers that your organization provides quality respiratory care. Through our "Quality Respiratory Care Recognition" program we will provide you with recognition for your superior provision of service to your residents receiving respiratory care services. By completing the attached form and attesting that you meet the service parameters, you will be awarded the Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) seal. The AARC will maintain and publish a database of long-term care providers that meet the following requirements on its patient education site, YourLungHealth.org. The requirements are:

- All respiratory therapists who are employed or contracted by the long term care facility to deliver bedside respiratory care services are either legally recognized by the state as competent to provide respiratory care services or hold the CRT or RRT credential in non-licensed states.
- All respiratory therapy employees must have completed background checks.
- For routine care and patient assessment, respiratory therapists are available 24 hours a day.
- Respiratory therapists provide patient assessments and make clinical recommendations regarding the service needs and plan of care for the respiratory-impaired residents to respective physicians.
- A policy and procedure manual that is reviewed annually and addresses the provision of respiratory care and services is available at the facility.
- A competency-based training program shall be in place for personnel administering respiratory related care.
- A doctor of medicine (preferably a pulmonologist) or osteopathy is designated as a medical director of respiratory care services.

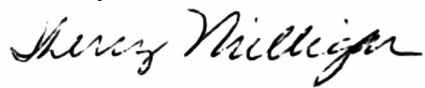
- A preventive maintenance program must be in place for all RT equipment.
- An established respiratory QA/PI program must be in place.
- The medical director reviews plan of care at least weekly in facilities providing ventilator care and at least monthly in facilities providing only routine respiratory care.
- In facilities that provide ventilator management, respiratory therapists are available 24 hours per day within the facility.
- All ventilator systems shall have a remote external alarm system and an emergency back-up power source.

Once a year we will ask you to renew your commitment by signing a new attestation.

This is a program where everyone wins -- you receive important recognition for your quality services, respiratory therapists receive value and recognition from you, and your residents and their families are assured that your organization is providing the highest quality of respiratory care services. Should you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Milligan".

Sherry Milligan
Associate Executive Director