21 NCAC 61 .0103 DEFINITIONS

The definitions of terms contained in G.S. 90-648 shall apply to the rules in this Chapter. In addition, the following definitions shall apply to the rules in this Chapter:

(1) "Assessment" means a clinical evaluation of an individual patient by a Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) or other licensed health care provider within their scope of practice to determine the ability and efficacy of a respiratory care procedure, protocol, or treatment, including an assessment of the suitability and efficacy of equipment for an individual patient if equipment is to be used in the procedure or treatment.

(2) "Respiratory care" means the health care discipline that specializes in the promotion of optimum cardiopulmonary function and health and wellness using scientific principles to identify, treat and prevent acute or chronic dysfunction of the cardiopulmonary system pursuant to G.S. 90-648(11) that is taught in accredited educational programs pursuant to G.S. 90-653(3) or in approved continuing education programs pursuant to the rules of this Chapter within the guidelines established by the American Association for Respiratory Care, incorporated by reference including subsequent amendments and editions, pursuant to G.S. 90-648(10)(f). Copies of the guidelines may be found at https://www.aarc.org/resources/clinical-resources/clinical-practice-guidelines/ at no cost.

(3) "The practice of respiratory care" means the performance of assessments and diagnostic tests, and implementation of treatment procedures and protocols related to the cardiopulmonary system pursuant to G.S. 90-648(10) and the activities defined by the American Association of Respiratory Care clinical guidelines, incorporated by reference including subsequent amendments and editions, pursuant to G.S. 90-648(10)(f). Copies of the guidelines may be found at https://www.aarc.org/resources/clinical-resources/clinical-practice-guidelines/ at no cost.

(4) "Medical gases" mean those inhaled gases used in the treatment of cardiopulmonary disease.

(5) "Humidity" means adding heat or moisture to an inhaled medical gas.

(6) "Aerosols" mean the suspension of particles dispersed in air or gas to deliver medication or humidity to the airways.

(7) "Pharmacologic agent" means a medication or medical gas delivered during a respiratory care procedure for the treatment of cardiopulmonary disease.

(8) "Hyperbaric oxygen therapy" means inhalation of high concentrations of oxygen at increased levels of atmospheric pressures within a total body chamber for the treatment of cardiopulmonary disorders or wounds.

(9) "Mechanical or physiological ventilatory support" means the provision of an apparatus to support gas exchange associated with cardiopulmonary dysfunction.

(10) "Hemodynamic monitoring" means a procedure required to monitor blood pressure invasively or noninvasively.

(11) "Diagnostic testing" means a procedure for assessing the function of the cardiopulmonary system and diagnosing cardiopulmonary disease or sleep related disorders.

(12) "Therapeutic application" means utilizing evidenced-based protocols, procedures, treatments, or modalities defined in this Chapter to maintain cardiopulmonary health or treat cardiopulmonary disease.

(13) "Active status" means a license issued to an individual after meeting the requirements of G.S. 90-653.

(14) "Endorsement" means a license issued by the Board recognizing the person named on the certificate as having met the requirements to perform respiratory care procedures pursuant to the rules of this Chapter.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 90-652; 90-648(2),(10), and (11); 90-660;*
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