

American Association for Respiratory Care
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Position Statement

AARC Statement of Continuing Education

It is critical for all health care practitioners to participate in continuing education in order to enhance their knowledge, improve their clinical practice and meet state licensure and national credentialing requirements. Participation in continuing education, whether mandatory or voluntary, offers the potential to be one of the most powerful tools to ensure safe, efficient, and quality patient care. The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) recognizes the value of, and need for, participation in continuing education and recommends that practitioners participate in educational activities on a continual basis. AARC members may utilize the Continuing Respiratory Care Education (CRCE) system as the mechanism for recognition and documentation of such activities. The AARC encourages Respiratory Therapists who have completed the required entry level education to pursue baccalaureate and graduate degrees relevant to their professional pursuits.

The AARC encourages Respiratory Therapists to select continuing education activities relevant to their personal and professional needs. Providers of continuing education activities (which can include clinical institutions, educational institutions, public and private associations or organizations, and proprietary corporations) are encouraged to conduct needs assessments in order to design and develop valuable educational activities that will enable practitioners to meet their professional goals. In addition, providers of continuing education are encouraged to review, evaluate and measure their activities' effectiveness. Providers are also urged to use instructional technology, incorporate multiple learning styles, current research-based learning and assessment theories, and foster critical thinking to promote effective learning.

Effective 1990

Revised: 2000

Revised: 2005

Revised: 2012

Reviewed: 2015