



Ordre professionnel  
des inhalothérapeutes  
du Québec

## Regulation respecting mandatory continuing education for members of the Ordre professionnel des inhalothérapeutes du Québec

### Professional Code

(R.S.Q., c. C-26, s. 94, par. o)

#### DIVISION I

##### REASONS

1. Given the speed and scope of technological change and clinical requirements, respiratory therapists, in order to maintain their professional qualifications, must improve their skills and update their knowledge.

Mandatory continuing education will allow respiratory therapists to better adapt to other realities of the health system, such as interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of work, and greater professional autonomy.

#### DIVISION II

##### REQUIRED HOURS AND REFERENCE PERIOD

2. A respiratory therapist must devote 30 hours per reference period, not less than 10 hours in any given year, to continuing education directly related to the professional practice of respiratory therapy.

In this regulation, “reference period” means a two-year period beginning on April 01 of an even-numbered year.

3. A respiratory therapist is exempt from the requirements of section 2 for any given reference period if he or she
  - (1) is listed on the roll of the Order as an inactive member for 53 consecutive weeks during the period of reference;
  - (2) is entered on the roll of the Order 51 weeks or less before the end of the reference period.

#### DIVISION III

##### QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES

4. A respiratory therapist may choose activities related to the professional practice of respiratory therapy that are best suited to his or her needs.

A respiratory therapist must choose from among the following continuing education activities recognized by the Order:

- (1) continuing education courses offered by the Order;
- (2) courses offered by colleges, universities, or specialized institutions;
- (3) cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ACPR) courses in accordance with Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada guidelines.
- (4) colloquia or conventions;
- (5) presentations at conferences or seminars (3 hours of continuing education for each hour of presentation);
- (6) authorship of published scientific articles (recognition of 3 hours per article);
- (7) various training sessions, particularly seminars and case studies;
- (8) participation in research projects.

5. The Bureau shall prepare a list of the continuing education activities it recognizes for the purposes of this regulation. It may also establish criteria for calculating the number of hours satisfying the requirements set out in section 2, where that number differs from the actual number of hours spent in an activity mentioned in paragraph 5 or 6 of section 4.

When determining the activities that will appear on the list, and establishing the criteria for calculating the qualifying hours of an activity, the Bureau shall take into consideration

- (1) the skill and qualifications of the instructor in relation to subject matter;
  - (2) instruction content;
  - (3) the context in which instruction is given;
  - (4) the quality of materials available, if applicable;
  - (5) proof of participation.
6. A respiratory therapist may choose a continuing education activity that is not included in the list referred to in the first paragraph of section 5. However, where the Bureau is of the opinion that such continuing education activity does not meet the criteria set forth in section 5, it may refuse to recognize the activity for the purposes of this regulation, but must first allow the respiratory therapist to submit written arguments.

The Bureau shall not refuse recognition where the secretary of the Order has recognized, prior to training, that a continuing education activity and its qualifying hours meet the criteria set forth in section 5.

#### DIVISION IV

##### VERIFICATION

7. When renewing membership with the Order each year, a respiratory therapist shall provide a declaration certifying the number of hours devoted to continuing education activities during the previous year, or, if applicable, certifying that he or she is exempt pursuant to section 3.

The Order may require supporting documents identifying the activities engaged in, their duration and content, the person offering the activity, and, if applicable, results obtained.

8. Where a respiratory therapist
- (1) fails to supply the declaration or supporting documents provided for in section 7;
  - (2) fails to devote to continuing education the number of hours prescribed in section 2;

- (3) has engaged in continuing education activities that are not recognized by the Bureau;

the secretary of the Order shall send the respiratory therapist a notice specifying the requirements that have not been met and setting a deadline for compliance.

9. The secretary of the Order shall send a final notice by registered mail to any respiratory therapist who does not respond to the notice provided for in section 8 within the prescribed time.

#### DIVISION V

##### PENALTIES

10. A respiratory therapist must remedy the default within 60 days after receipt of the notice provided for in section 9, failing which, the Bureau shall suspend or restrict his or her right to practice the profession. However, the Bureau must first allow the respiratory therapist to submit written arguments.

11. The suspension or restriction shall remain in effect until the respiratory therapist provides the secretary of the Order with proof that he or she has remedied the default that has been notified to him or her.

#### DIVISION VI

##### TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

12. Notwithstanding section 2, a respiratory therapist must devote 20 hours to continuing education during the first reference period following the coming into force of this regulation, and not less than 10 hours in any given year.
13. This Regulation comes into force on April 01, 2004.

Please keep in mind that this publication has no official sanction, the only official texts being the ones that have appeared in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* or that were published by the Direction de la refonte des lois et règlements.