



The National Alliance of
Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies

L'Alliance nationale des organismes de
réglementation de la thérapie respiratoire

COMMUNIQUÉ

Safe and Effective Respiratory Therapy Services A Priority During Second Wave of H1N1 Influenza A

October 26, 2009 - As the country enters the second wave of the H1N1 Influenza A pandemic, there will be discussions across the health care sector surrounding redeployment, labour mobility, skills development and emergency registration. Consequently, these have the potential of raising questions related to scope of practice, competency and training of respiratory therapists.

Respiratory therapists (RTs) are the healthcare professionals on the front lines of this respiratory care crisis. They have the skills, knowledge and judgement to provide health care to individuals suffering respiratory distress in a variety of settings.

The provincial regulatory body for respiratory therapy is a key resource in your jurisdiction, and the National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies (NARTRB) encourages communication with your provincial regulatory body during this pandemic. Each regulatory body will continue core services throughout the duration of the outbreak. These services include:

- acting as a liaison between government, respiratory therapists and employers to ensure information is available in a timely and easily accessible manner;
- working collaboratively with other regulatory bodies and professions to ensure best practices and other information is shared to provide optimal patient care;
- providing specific professional practice advice;
- in the event additional human resources are required from outside of the province, the regulatory bodies may be required to put in place emergency registration procedures.

The NARTRB is confident that the regulatory organization in each jurisdiction has developed processes and guidelines that will be effectively executed as it relates to licensing and regulatory matters according to the needs of the region involved. As such, Canadians can be confident that they will have access to safe and effective respiratory care.

Established in 1999, the NARTRB is a strategic alliance of regulatory bodies from each jurisdiction. It also includes the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT), the national professional association, representing non-regulated jurisdictions. As a leader in the field of respiratory therapy, the NARTRB aims to collaborate on regulatory matters and share information that affects the practice of respiratory therapy across Canada.

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