



Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists

Policy Title: Temporary Registration of Students to Assist in an Emergency Response	
Date Approved: April 3, 2020	Category: Registration, Operations
Date of next revision:	Authority: Respiratory Therapists Act S15 Respiratory Therapists Regulations S17(1)

Policy Statement:

To assist with an emergency health crisis in Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists (NSCRT) has developed a procedure for granting respiratory therapy student applicants a temporary license. The NSCRT has a responsibility to ensure safe, ethical and competent care is provided to Nova Scotians. To mitigate risk to the public, all licenses issued to respiratory therapy students will be temporary with applicable conditions and restrictions.

Definitions:

Credentialing Examination – The examination, administered by the Canadian Board for Respiratory Care, that must be successfully challenged for an applicant to be eligible for an active practice license with the NSCRT.

Delegate - Entrust a task or responsibility to another person.

Direct Patient Care - Provision of services to a patient that require direct interface between the patient and the health care provider.

eLearning Module - A mandatory, online CEC developed by the NSCRT to assist applicants in acquiring information relevant to practice and to maintain currency.

Emergency health crisis – A situation deemed by the Federal or Provincial government as posing an immediate risk to the health and safety of Nova Scotians and impacts the delivery of health care services.

General Supervision – Where a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) located in the health facility provides consultation with a Student Respiratory Therapist by personal face to face contact, or direct voice contact by telephone or some other means within a reasonable time.

National Competency Framework (NCF) – The pan-Canadian reference on respiratory therapy competencies. The NCF details the competencies required for entry to practice.

Student Respiratory Therapist-Temporary License (SRT-TL) – A Dalhousie University respiratory therapy student, near completion of their third year of study, who has achieved entry to practice competency in multiple competencies which they may be authorized to perform in a clinical setting.



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Policy/Procedure:

1. The NSCRT Credentials Committee authorizes the Registrar to issue temporary licenses with conditions and restrictions and to waive the application and registration fee for students who meet the specified criteria.
2. These temporary licenses will expire after 60 days or immediately upon the emergency health crisis being declared over, whichever occurs first.
3. If the emergency health crisis extends beyond 60 days, the Registrar has the authority to renew the temporary license for an additional timeframe (not to exceed 12 months total).
4. The professional designation for legal documentation purposes is “Student Respiratory Therapist-Temporary License” or “SRT-TL”.
5. Applicants for the SRT-TL must submit the following:
 - a. Completed online application in the temporary pandemic support category;
 - b. Verification of identity (Copy of Birth certificate or passport);
 - c. Proof of completion of the NSCRT online eLearning module.
 - d. Summary of NCF competencies where entry to practice competency has been achieved and those competencies in progress. Entry to practice competency in NCF B7.1 and B7.2: Proper use of preventative measures to ensure health and safety must have been achieved;
 - e. Official letter from Dalhousie University Respiratory Therapy Program stating that the applicant:
 - i. Is in their 3rd year of the program;
 - ii. Has completed mask fit testing; and
 - iii. Has a negative criminal records and vulnerable sector check previously submitted to NSHA for the applicant’s recent clinical.
6. The temporary licenses for students will be subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

Conditions:

 - a. Following expiry of the temporary license, upon successful completion of the remaining educational program requirements, students may apply for a temporary graduate license.
 - b. Following successful completion of the educational program, individuals will be eligible to challenge the credentialing examination, administered by the Canadian Board for Respiratory Care (CBRC).



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Restrictions:

- a. Must practice under the general supervision of a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) who has no conditions or restrictions on their license.
 - b. Is prohibited from delegating any act of respiratory therapy to another person who does not hold an active practice Respiratory Therapy license.
 - c. Is prohibited from supervising or mentoring learners.
 - d. Is authorized to perform only the NCF competencies the student has demonstrated entry to practice competency in, as determined by the faculty. Competency may have been demonstrated through simulation or in a clinical setting.
 - e. All SRT-TLs are prohibited from providing **any patient care**:
 - i. In Intensive Care Units;
 - ii. To COVID-19 positive patients.
 - f. All SRT-TLs are prohibited from providing **direct patient care**, but may assist active practice RRTs, in the following areas:
 - i. Emergency Departments; and
 - ii. Obstetrics/Neonatal/Ped areas.
7. In response to the crisis, existing license restrictions may be amended or additional restrictions imposed as deemed necessary by the Credentials Committee.

References:

[Respiratory Therapists Act](#)

[Respiratory Therapists Regulations](#)

[The NSCRT Pandemic Plan](#)

Appendices:

[National Competency Framework](#)



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Version History	
Date revised:	Reason for revision: