



Lobestergram



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The AARC now offers a digital subscription for just **\$78.50** for renewing members. New members pay an additional processing fee of \$12.50.

Did you know you automatically become a member of the MeSRC when you join the AARC? You will help support respiratory therapists in Maine by joining!

Why is the AARC so important? Without the AARC, there would be no respiratory care departments; no respiratory care educational programs; no nationally recognized NBRC credentials: the Federal Government would not have drafted the new Conditions of Participation allowing respiratory care practitioners to take verbal orders and administer medication such as oxygen and aerosols; there would not be the recognition and respect given to us by our medical sponsors; and there would be no legal recognition nor efforts towards increased legal recognition.



*Unfortunately, as of May 2013 the MeSRC is unable to process memberships. *
We apologize for the inconvenience.

SAVE THE DATE !!!

Plan Now for the Maine Event

May 13 & 14, 2015
Hollywood Casino
Bangor, Maine

Questions
Hannah Keaney, RRT
Educational Comm. Chair
hannah.keaney@maine.edu
www.mesrc.org
www.hollywoodcasinobangor.com



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President's Message

As we come around to another Respiratory Care Week, take a look at everything you've done over the past year as well as what lies ahead. As of October 1, 2014, hospitals are now paying penalties for the 30 day readmissions. New this year is the readmission penalties for readmissions of COPD, elective total knee & elective total hip replacements. The knee & hips are most commonly readmitting for lung related problems rather than surgical site infections.

This latest change in health care has created some excellent opportunities for respiratory care practitioners.

Take advantage of leading the change in quality care at the bedside. Use your resources around the state &

across the country. Connect with other RCPs that are going thru the same thing as we are. Don't reinvent the wheel, share the positive experiences on how respiratory care teams are making great things happen.

The Best is yet to come!!!
"Happy Respiratory Care Week!"
Thank you for all you do!

Daren Rainey, RRT
MeSRC President



SMCC News



SMCC has thirteen senior students. They are all working very hard in class and out on clinical this semester. They are preparing for NRP in early

November and ACLS in early December.

The seniors will be hosting a *DRIVE for COPD* campaign on campus for the *Great American Smoke Out* in November. Anastasia Belova submitted a media presentation featuring concept maps for the modes of mechanical ventilation to the scholarship competition hosted by the Lambda Beta Society. The Lambda Beta Society is the National Honor Society for the Profession of Respiratory Care. Anastasia designed a comprehensive media presentation and we are very proud of her exceptional effort and participation. Erin Healey will represent Maine respiratory therapy students by attending the House of Delegates meeting in December.

We have nineteen first year students. They are also working hard and are eager to start clinical in January. Ahmed Hersi, Respiratory Therapist at Maine Medical Center, will be speaking to them on "Cultural Competence" this semester. Dr. Patty Lerwick also from Maine Medical Center will be speaking on "Healthcare Ethics." We thank both of them for sharing their knowledge with the class of 2016.

Last May SMCC graduated eleven students. All eleven passed the CRT exam on the first attempt for a 100% NBRC pass rate. Eight of these fine graduates are now RRTs. Congratulations to the class of 2014!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen McDonald MS, RRT-NPS, RPFT
SMCC Respiratory Therapy Program Director

Educational Committee Update



As you may know, next year the MeSRC will be returning to Hollywood Casino in Bangor for The Maine Event. We are currently working on finding the perfect line up of speakers and figuring out food options. It will be a busy winter as we prepare to put on another great show! Stay in the know at www.mesrc.org for registration and the brochure!

I would like to officially announce our new Educational Chair, Hannah Keaney. Hannah works at EMHC and has been involved in the educational committee for a few years now. She has showed great interest in learning how to organize and design our conference. I have no doubt she will do an exceptional job in 2015. Thank-you Hannah for your continued hard work and dedication to the MeSRC!

Amanda S. Albee, RRT
MeSRC Delegate

I am very excited to be taking on the role as Educational Chair. I feel very lucky that I have such great mentors working bedside me to assist me with this endeavor. I've already learned a lot and am enjoying being so involved. I look forward to working with the board and the rest of the committee for another great year!

Hannah Keaney, RRT
Educational Chair



2015 EDU Committee

Hannah Keaney (EMHS) – EDU Chair
Norma Hay (MMC) - EDU Co-Chair
Daren Rainey (SMHC)
Amanda Albee (MMC)
Kate Johnson (Mercy)
Jack Higgins (WCGH)
Jon Lewis (VA)
Erin Healey (SMMC)
Brian Sadowski (Mercy)
Alex Dickinson (MMC)
Lauren Jordan (MMC)
Ashley Cude (MMC)
Hannah Keaney (EMHS)
Cynthia Carlton (CMMC)
Tara Inman (CMMC)
Bobbie Crockett (SJH)
Sean Shortall (Maquet)
Flo Pajanen (Mercy)



KVCC News



Once again a new group of students arrive to start their careers in Respiratory Care. I must say we have a very motivated and engaged group of first and second year students. Below

you will see a picture of the Respiratory Care Week activities at KVCC. Students manned an information table from 11 to 1 Monday through Thursday during Respiratory Care Week. In addition to information about Respiratory Care there was information on various lung diseases provided by the American Lung Association of Maine. Students developed a quiz game. If the participant answered the question correctly they had their choice of an apple, homemade cookie, or candy. There was also a donation jar for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Northern New England.



Second year students completed NRP the second week of October. This is the first of three certifications they will obtain during the last year of the program. Second year students are also busy completing their pediatric patient education projects as part of the Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care course.

In closing congratulations to Eric Marinez on achieving the RRT credential over the summer.

Barbara Larsson, M.Ed., RRT



House of Delegates Report Summer 2014



Where: Marco Island, FL
When: July 18th & 19th

My first official HOD meeting was as rejuvenating as I thought it would be. I always leave every AARC meeting feeling refreshed and extra motivated knowing what the AARC is doing for our profession around the country. It was awesome seeing our beloved Keith Siegel sitting up front on the AARC Leadership Table as Treasurer! He did an amazing job and made Maine proud!

As delegate, we are asked to join a subcommittee of the HOD. I chose to participate in the Student/Mentor Committee because it is similar to our recent efforts of funding a Maine student to attend a HOD meeting. Getting students involved is a priority of the AARC to help grow our future. This group facilitates local students to attend the HOD meeting. While complete funding is not available, they did have a resolution pass allowing them \$2000.00 annually to help partially support students who otherwise would be paying their own way. Exactly how the money will be divided is still being worked out but the AARC BOD was more than happy to approve the funds and as an extra incentive, they also said if a student goes through this program they can receive free attendance into the AARC Congress. I believe the date for this will start in 2016 and is not open to students that would otherwise be funded by their state society.

Lots of talk about the possibility of Texas legislature de-licensing respiratory therapists. The AARC has spent a great deal of money, time and resources helping the TSRC do all it can to make sure this doesn't happen. It appears it may be as simple as changing the licensing board in which the RT license is under. FYI Update: On August 13th The Texas Sunset Commission unanimously voted to keep the RT licensure and move it under the umbrella of the Texas State Medical Board. We will find out more in January as all the recommendations made in the Sunset Report and the Subcommittee report must be ratified by the Texas state legislature at that time. Things are looking positive though.

Our website initiative of the AARC's Pulmonary Tool Kit helped increase reimbursement for

pulmonary rehab across the board. The charge code increased approximately \$10.00 after the AARC's effort to educate providers and rehabs how to properly bill. To help put it in perspective, the charge only saw a \$0.03 increase last year. This is a huge step towards ensuring pulmonary rehabs stay in business and our patients receive the care they need. I know our BOD put a lot of effort into sharing the Pulmonary Took Kit... We should be very proud of ourselves!

HOD Resolutions

1. Resolution # 57 - 14 - 1

Resolved that the AARC create a financial assistance budget of \$1000 per year to support Respiratory Care Students attending the House of Delegates meeting.

PASSED – Increased to \$2000.00 with free Congress attendance to approved students.

2. Resolution # 94 – 14 - 2

Resolved that The AARC establish a committee to review and update the Code of Ethics and Professional behavior statement, to include specific language addressing unacceptable conduct related to intimidating and disruptive behaviors.

REFERRED - To the AARC executive office to determine if current wording sufficed or if additions would needed to be made

Amanda S. Albee, RRT
MeSRC Delegate



AARC Government Affairs update 2014

Hope everyone had a good summer and we sure have been enjoying nice fall weather. My goal with this article is you will make time today to contact Maine's Representatives through the AARC capital connection web site .HR 2619 , the Medicare Respiratory Therapist Access Act introduces by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) on July 8th 2013 is still on the table . The key points of this bill are to achieve better access, better care and lower cost for patients and the healthcare system. We believe Respiratory Therapist are the best trained professionals to Reduce excess hospital readmissions, improve transitions care, for those with chronic lung disease, A key to achieving these goals is to reduce or eliminate exacerbations which can lead to costly emergency room (ER) visits and/or hospital admissions or readmissions.

How will HR 2619 help?

- 1- It will amend Medicare Part B to provide coverage of pulmonary self-management education and training services furnished by a qualified RT in the physician practice setting; the physician will bill Medicare.
- 2-It will provide Medicare beneficiaries suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary fibrosis, and cystic fibrosis greater access to the care they need from RTs.
- 3- It will provide the tools pulmonary patients need to self-manage their disease and improve their outcomes by educating them on how to recognize and reduce symptoms and triggers of their disease and to ensure proper training and adherence with inhaled medications.

How much will HR 2619 cost?

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) commissioned an independent cost analysis from Dobson/DaVanzo, a well-known health care consulting firm in Washington, DC.

1- The analysis indicates that implementation of **HR 2619** would result in an increase of between \$245 and \$500 million over a 10-year period from 2014 through 2023. The range is based on an assumption of compliance by Medicare beneficiaries who have been taught self-management skills.

2- It is reasonable to expect that if one-half of one percent of ER visits for the population served by **HR 2619** were avoided due to self-management skills taught by RTs, the costs could be totally offset.

3-If 24 percent of patients who had an ER visit and a claim for oxygen improved their oxygen utilization and adherence to inhaled medications as a result of self-management, it could result in a total offset of the costs associated with implementation of **HR 2619**.

Please make a note / goal or wrap a string around your finger (and do not take it off until the letter is sent) to send your letter today through capital Connection. Please ask family, friends and coworkers to make this effort as well. Another nice idea is to get the topic on your department's staff meeting agenda. When you log onto Capital connection the letters automatically go to your representative and populate with wording so it's very fast (30 -60 seconds)

Thanks for reading this letter and hope you are logging onto the AARC site now Or have that string around you finger???

Jack Higgins RRT



SAVE THE DATES

2014 MeSRC MEETING DATES

Educational Meeting: 1700

BOD Meeting: 1800

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Dr. Duval's Office

76 High Street, Suite 300

Lewiston, Maine 04240

APRIL 9, 2015

CURRENT TRENDS IN HEALTHCARE

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL, BANGOR, MAINE

If you would like more information please contact
Peggy Innocenti at 907-1630 or
peggy.innocenti@sjhhealth.com



RT'S

“People of excellence go the extra mile to do what's right.” — Joel Osteen,

Rumford Hospital



Respiratory Care week is upon us again and finds Rumford Hospital with a night shift for the first time in 20 or so years! Who brought about this great improvement? Why, none other than the very best

Respiratory Care Team ever! Our team collected data, worked out schedule changes and compromises and then did a test of change by covering some nights in a trial period to prove our assessment. Without this tremendous support and compromise we would not have been able to bring Michael Hann & Ben Sullivan to our team. We look forward to working with you and hearing your ideas on how we can improve our night shifts.

Sue Rioux, Jen Libby, Michael Breton, Chris Bonnevie, and Claudine Davidson, I thank you all for another great year. Your dedication to your profession, compassion for your patients, and commitment to your team is outstanding and leaves me speechless. Amy, I should call you our “Creative Clinical Coordinator”. You “colorizing” the dull but necessary communication postings and I love your seasonal decorations. You are a caring and supportive team leader. I know I have learned a lot from you this past year. I depend heavily upon your excellent skills both clinical and team building.

My Respiratory Care Team, I don't know how I got so fortunate to be part of such a caring, loving and skilled team. Thank you all for choosing Rumford Hospital as you home away from home. I wish you a great Respiratory Care Week.

Gale Hill
Cardiac Diagnostics, Medical Imaging & Respiratory
Care Manager
Rumford Hospital

The communities of The River Valley are fortunate to have a Respiratory Therapy Team with over 100 years of dedicated experience providing compassionate and skilled care to a diverse patient population. Though our team is small, it is large on integrity, service and excellence. I am proud to be part of a dynamic, outgoing and entertaining team! We continually learn from each other, improving each and every day to benefit our patients, their families and hospital staff. Our team includes: Susan Rioux, Jennifer Libby, Michael

Breton, Claudine Davidson, Christopher Bonnevie, Michael Hann and Ben Sullivan. **THANK YOU** to the entire RUMFORD HOSPITAL RESPIRATORY THERAPY TEAM for your outstanding efforts to provide the best care to all of our patients. Your hard work does not go unnoticed! Happy Respiratory Care Week!

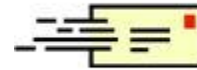
Amy Libby, RRT
Clinical Coordinator
Respiratory Care
Rumford Hospital

VA Maine Health Care System

The Respiratory Therapy Program at VA Maine has expanded services to provide additional coverage in support of our Intermediate Surgical Expansion Plan. This meant 4 new RT jobs here in Maine. VA's mission is to fulfill President's Lincoln's Promise "*To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan*" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans. Part of that mission is a special emphasis program where our priority is to hire veterans. I am very proud to be able to have filled all 4 of the new positions and replaced two staff who have moved on with fellow veterans. Joshua Caporino RRT started here a month ago, also coming to join the team are Mathieu Dumond RRT, Kevin Hakanson RRT, Ryan Larrivee RRT, Tommy Daigle RRT and Jeffery Ward RRT. My Sleep Lab has expanded

from 2 to 4 beds, I hope to have the 3 new Sleep tech positions opening up soon, as well as refilling retiring RT's position in December.

Jon R Lewis RRT RPFT
Supervisory Registered Respiratory Therapist
Improvement Advisor
VA Maine Health Care System
Augusta, Maine



LOBESTERGRAM INFO

If anyone is interested in submitting an article for an upcoming addition of the Lobestergram, please contact me at roberta.crockett@sjhhealth.com. Please provide me with an email address and I will send the newsletter to you electronically and save postage.



"As all human beings, in my view, creatures of God's design, we must respect all other human beings. That does not mean I have to agree with their choices or agree with their opinions, but indeed I respect them as human beings." ~ Stockwell Day

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say." ~ Bryant H. McGill



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