



New Brunswick Association of Respiratory Therapists

Title: Medication Reconciliation

Number: NBART PS-001

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Position Statement

The New Brunswick Association of Respiratory Therapists mission is to protect the public by ensuring that the Respiratory Therapists practicing in the province of New Brunswick deliver safe and ethical care. We will fulfill this mission through the administration of the Act Respecting Respiratory Therapists, setting the standards for entry to practice and continuing competency.

Medication reconciliation is a formal process in which health care professionals partner with clients and families to ensure accurate and complete medication information transfer at interfaces of care (Ref. Safer Healthcare Now Medication Reconciliation Getting Started Kits). It involves a systematic process for obtaining a medication history, and using that information to compare to medication orders to identify and resolve discrepancies. It is designed to prevent potential medication errors and adverse drug events. (Ref. ISMP Canada, Assuring Medication Accuracy at Transitions in Care: Medication Reconciliation High5s: Action on Patient Safety Getting Started Kit, 2008)

Medication reconciliation is a shared responsibility of interdisciplinary health care professionals in collaboration with clients and families. Clients and families know their medication-taking practices and provide medication vials, lists and information. (Ref. Safer Healthcare Now Medication Reconciliation Getting Started Kits)

Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRTs) are part of the interdisciplinary health care professional teams in all areas of health care. The NBART uses 2011 Respiratory Therapy National Competency Profile to determine scope of practice and pharmacology is an integral part of a RRT's entry to practice requirements. (Ref. 2011 Respiratory Therapy National Competency Profile)

The NBART is of the position that the role of Respiratory Therapists in the medication reconciliation process falls within the scope of practice of Respiratory Therapy. Furthermore, the NBART believes that RRTs assuming the role and responsibilities as part of the medication reconciliation team is in the public's best interest. It is an expectation of the NBART that all of its members practice only in the areas of Respiratory Therapy in which they are educated and experienced. The actual roles and responsibilities for each discipline and clinician are based on the local team's medication reconciliation practice model. Effective models will differ from one organization to the next.

If you have any questions regarding the role of Respiratory Therapists in the medication reconciliation process, please contact us.