

Bureau of Professional Licensing Respiratory Care FAQ

1. Do I need to complete continuing education?

The Public Health Code does not require continuing education for renewal of a Respiratory Therapist license. However, licensees are responsible for maintaining competence in their profession.

2. How long is a Respiratory Therapist license issued for?

An initial license is valid until the next license expiration date of the profession unless the license is issued less than 120 days prior to the expiration date and then it will carry to the following year. After your first renewal, your license will be valid for 2 years.

3. When can I renew my license? How do I renew my license?

Licensees can begin to renew their licenses approximately 90 days prior to the expiration date of their current license.

Licensees will be mailed a renewal notification to their address on record approximately 90 days prior to the expiration date of the license. Remember to notify the Department in writing of any address change. It's a licensee's responsibility to renew his or her license on time. Failure to receive the renewal notification, or to notify the Department of an address change, does not exempt a licensee from renewing their license on time.

Licensees are required to renew their license(s) by using the online renewal system at www.michigan.gov/elicense using a debit or credit card containing a MasterCard, Visa or Discover logo or by electronic check.

4. What are CRT and RRT credentials?

CRT and RRT are credentials issued by the National Board for Respiratory Care. Prior to licensure of Respiratory Therapists, many employers required these credentials in order to confirm competence to practice as a Respiratory Therapist.

5. What is the difference between the CRT and RRT credentials?

CRT stands for Certified Respiratory Therapist and is the entry level designation whereas RRT stands for Registered Respiratory Therapist and is the advanced level designation.

6. When is it appropriate to use CRT and RRT credentials?

These credentials may be used at the discretion of the licensee denoted after licensed initials to indicate the level of training and competency achieved.

7. When is it appropriate to use specialty certifications?

Specialty certifications may be used after the license initials such as CPFT (Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist) and RFPT (Advanced Pulmonary Function Technologist).

For example:

John Smith, LRT

Jane Williams, LRT, RRT

Sam Johnson, LRT, CRT

Susan Thomas, LRT, CPFT

8. There have been changes to the Public Health Code and Administrative Rules that require licensees and individuals seeking licensure to complete training to identify victims of human trafficking. When does this take effect?

Beginning with the December 2018 renewal cycle, and all renewal cycles thereafter, licensees must have completed training in identifying victims of human trafficking that meet the standards established in Administrative Rule 338.2201a.

Beginning March 17, 2021, individuals seeking licensure must have completed training to identify victims of human trafficking prior to obtaining a license as a Respiratory Therapist.

Licensees, or individuals seeking licensure, must complete training in identifying victims of human trafficking only one time. The Department may select and audit a sample of individuals and request documentation verifying the completion of training.

9. Which level of examination is required for licensure?

An applicant must be certified at the CRT level or above. An applicant that is certified at the RRT level is also considered to be qualified at the CRT level as it is a higher level credential.

10. I have taken several examinations through NBRC. The application asks for a date when I took the examination. What date should I submit?

You should put the test date by which you were certified by NBRC or the date you were certified by NBRC if you don't have the test date. You can request your NBRC verification online at www.nbrc.org. When you request the verification of your certification, the system will alert you as to the original date of certification. That is the date you should put on the application.

11. How do I file a complaint against a health care professional?

Information on how to [File an Allegation Against a Health Care Licensee](#) can be located on the Bureau of Professional Licensing's website at www.michigan.gov/bpl.

12. Where can I find a copy of the administrative rules pertaining to Respiratory Care?

You may view the current [Administrative Rules](#) and proposed revisions, if applicable, on the website www.michigan.gov/bpl.