

***Please read below for important changes to the annual renewal process for 2010!***

October 2009

Dear Colleague:

The National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc. (NBRC) has been credentialing respiratory therapists, supporting the respiratory care education system, and enhancing qualified respiratory care professionals since 1960. Your national credential(s) tells a lot about you and your competence to perform your job; they are based on national job analysis research and validated the most extensively of any allied health testing program. One way you, as a nationally credentialed respiratory care professional, can provide evidence of your qualifications is by annually renewing the active status of your credentials with the NBRC.

**Effective 2010, the Board of Trustees has implemented a change to the annual renewal process to help make it easier to understand. The renewal cycle will be based on a calendar year, from January 1- December 31 each year. In place of wallet card stickers, the Board elected to provide an annual gift in appreciation to those who support the NBRC through the annual renewal process. The 2010 gift will be mailed out after the first of the year. You may already have a 2010 wallet card sticker. This sticker was provided for paying the annual renewal for 2009. However, the 2010 sticker does not mean you have renewed for 2010.**

Being an active member in the national groups of practitioners credentialed by the NBRC means you care about protecting your professional future. Your annual renewal fee helps the NBRC work for uniform licensure and develop examinations that uphold the standards of the respiratory care profession. Active status also has many other benefits:

- Recognition in the NBRC Directory and access to professionals across the country
- An online subscription to NBRC Horizons, an informative bimonthly newsletter communicating credentialing developments
- Reduced fees for services and recredentialing examinations
- For credentials that are subject to the Continuing Competency Program (CCP), keeping active status for all 5 years of the credential term allows participation in the CCP via the CE route at no additional cost
- Representation with major organizations and state agencies that impact the respiratory care profession
- A voice in the future of your profession
- An annual gift of appreciation

Active status means that credentialed individuals have paid the \$25 annual renewal fee and provided proof of employment under medical direction acceptable to the NBRC. Individuals who are not currently working in respiratory care under medical supervision have the option to support the NBRC by paying the \$25 renewal fee even though they do not qualify for active status. Renew early to enjoy the benefits all year long!

If you earned your NBRC credential(s) on or after July 1, 2002, you are required to participate in the NBRC's Continuing Competency Program (CCP). To keep costs low and provide incentive to individuals who annually renew their active status with the NBRC, the Board of Trustees approved a fee structure for the Continuing Competency Program (CCP) that will result in **NO added cost** for participating in the CCP for those who maintain their active status. The following bullets outline the CCP fee structure.

- Active Status: Individuals who renew their active membership for four (4) years following their exempt period – No additional fee required to participate in the CCP, using the CE route.
- Inactive Status: Individuals who do NOT renew their active status in any of the four (4) consecutive years following their exempt period –\$25 fee for each year of inactive status is required to participate in the CCP, using the CE route.
- Lapsed Status: Individuals who fail to apply for the CCP or who fail the examination and do not complete one of the other options for renewal - \$150 fee is required to participate in the CCP, plus the current examination fee.

As a result, individuals renewing their credential(s) through the continuing education route and who maintain active status with the NBRC in each of the four years following their initial credentialing and one-year “exempt” period will not have to pay an additional fee to participate in the CCP. Those who do not maintain active status will incur extra cost to participate in the CCP.

I encourage you to visit the NBRC's website at [www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org) to renew your active status in the national groups of practitioners credentialed by the NBRC. If you have not maintained active status in the past, please reconsider activating your status to demonstrate support for your credentialing organization and to help ensure that your NBRC credentials continue to have value and meaning. Part of being a professional is to continue to recognize the value of your national credentials and support the organization that stands behind them. Your support will be greatly appreciated and used by the NBRC to accomplish our mission for years to come.

Sincerely,



Sherry L. Barnhart, RRT, RRT-NPS, FAARC  
President