



May 13, 2014

Dear _____,

As a program that grants a Special Certificate of CRT/RRT eligibility, we would like to inform you of a recent change. On January 15, 2014, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) and the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) issued a joint announcement to discontinue CoARC Policy 13 and related admissions policies as of January 1, 2015. Subsequent to this announcement, the CoARC and NBRC received a number of letters of concern about this decision and its potential effect on students from your program(s).

In an effort not to penalize students who currently matriculated in a program that holds a Special Certificate of CRT/RRT Eligibility, the NBRC Board of Trustees voted to authorize the Special Certificate as a route for admission to the Therapist Multiple-Choice and Clinical Simulation Examinations for individuals who are issued such a certificate by a program authorized to do so by CoARC until December 31, 2015. Candidates utilizing this exception to the admissions policy must apply and test by December 31, 2015. After this date, all candidates must meet the admission requirements for the Therapist Multiple-Choice and Clinical Simulation Examinations previously approved by the NBRC which require graduation from an institution supporting a CoARC accredited respiratory therapy education program.

After the decision to rescind CoARC Policy 13 was made, NBRC and CoARC representatives communicated through the appropriate channels with the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) throughout the process of implementing the rescission of CoARC Policy 13 and changes in NBRC admissions policies. The three organizations trust that members of the respiratory care profession will see this extension of NBRC eligibility by presentation of the Special Certificate of CRT/RRT eligibility addresses the concerns expressed in correspondence with the AARC, CoARC and NBRC.

For more information concerning the elimination of CoARC Policy 13, please review the *Joint Statement from the NBRC and CoARC Regarding Changes to NBRC Admissions Policies and CoARC Policy 13* on the CoARC website, <http://www.coarc.com/13.html>.

Sincerely,

Kathy Rye
CoARC President

Carl Haas
NBRC President

George Gaebler
AARC President

- C: Tom Smalling, CoARC Executive Director
- C: Gary Smith, NBRC Executive Director
- C: Tom Kallstrom, AARC Executive Director