

Department of Health  
Rulemaking Hearing Rules  
Board of Respiratory Care  
Division of Health Related Boards

Chapter 1330-1  
General Rules Governing Respiratory Care Practitioners

New Rule

Table of Contents

1330-1-.22 ABG Endorsement

1330-1-.22 ABG Endorsement.

(1) ABG endorsement includes the practice of specimen analysis of blood gases, pH and other associated parameters along with the needed equipment maintenance and quality assurance procedures. For purposes of this rule “associated parameters” includes, but is not limited to:

(a) measured parameters, such as:

1. pCO<sub>2</sub>;
2. pO<sub>2</sub>;
3. O<sub>2</sub> saturation;
4. carboxyhemoglobin;
5. methemoglobin;
6. hemoglobin; and
7. fetal hemoglobin; and

(b) calculated parameters, such as:

1. sodium bicarbonate;
2. base excess;
3. total CO<sub>2</sub>; and

4. O<sub>2</sub> saturation.

(2) ABG Endorsement Course Content

(a) An ABG endorsement course shall consist of lecture, laboratory and clinical practice. During the clinical phase of the course the student must perform and be deemed proficient in proper arterial blood puncture (sampling) and handling techniques, arterial blood gas analysis, and arterial blood gas machine maintenance.

(b) An ABG endorsement course must include, as a minimum, the following topics:

1. Arterial blood gas values and interpretation;
2. Blood gas electrodes, principles of operation, and maintenance;
3. Oxygen transport;
4. Acid-base homeostasis;
5. Assessment of hypoxemia;
6. Regulation of acids, bases, and electrolytes;
7. Diagnosis of acid-base disturbances;
8. Effects of sample size, heparin, temperature, air bubbles, and time delay on the blood sample;
9. Noninvasive blood gas monitoring;
10. Quality assurance to include record keeping, preventive maintenance, calibration, quality control, and corrective actions.

(3) ABG Endorsement Course Approval – Providers of ABG endorsement courses that are not part of a respiratory care educational program must apply to the Board of Respiratory Care to be recognized as an ABG endorsement training course by:

(a) submitting a letter to the Board of Respiratory Care requesting ABG endorsement course approval; and

- (b) submitting documents demonstrating the inclusion of the course content as provided in paragraph (2). Documentation shall include:
  - 1. course syllabi; and
  - 2. course outlines; and
  - 3. other documents as appropriate.

(4) Obtaining ABG Endorsement

- (a) Any respiratory care practitioner can obtain ABG endorsement by submitting verification of successful completion of an ABG course approved by the Board that is part of a respiratory care educational program accredited (or holding a “Letter of Review”) by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, the California College for Health Sciences “Blood Gas Technology Program”, or other like programs approved by the Board; or
- (b) An individual can obtain ABG endorsement by submitting verification of a “Special Analyst/ABG” license issued by the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 63-27-102, 63-27-104, and 63-27-115.

Repeal

Rule 1330-1-.22, ABG Endorsement, is repealed.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, and 63-27-104.

The rulemaking hearing rules set out herein were properly filed in the Department of State on the 2nd day of December, 2005, and will become effective on the 15th day of February, 2006.