



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

RENEWAL FORM QA DECLARATION

Practice FAQs

November 2015

QUESTION

On my CRTO renewal online form it asks me to “*...declare that I am participating in the CRTO Quality Assurance Program by maintaining my professional portfolio on an ongoing basis*”. I am a fairly recent grad and have not been able to find a job yet. Therefore, I cannot take part in in services, rounds, etc. Should I answer “no”?

ANSWER

All Members (General, Graduate, Inactive & Limited) are required to participate in the CRTO’s QA Program by participating in professional development activities and updating the information in their professional portfolios to reflect this; this applies regardless of whether or not you are working as an RT at the time.

Ensuring that the competencies you hold as an RT are up-to-date is not only a condition of registration, it is a professional and ethical responsibility. If your family doctor was away from practice for a period of time, I am sure you would want to know that s/he had been keeping current so that when they did begin working again they would be able to provide you with the best possible care. Well, it’s no different for a profession like respiratory therapy that provides essential healthcare services to a wide range of individuals. The work that RTs do is essential, complex and ever changing, and it merits the highest degree of both public respect and professional accountability.

Maintaining your professional portfolio does not require you to attend in-service or grand rounds – it can be as simple as reading an article from a professional journal, or taking one of the many free online courses (e.g., *The Science of Safety in Healthcare* from John Hopkin’s University or *Take the Lead on Healthcare Quality Improvement* from Case Western Reserve University). What you want to know more about will be driven by your learning needs and career goals, but you are expected to continue your learning on an ongoing basis from graduation right up to retirement. This means even (and perhaps even especially) if you are not currently working.