

# COLLEGE OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS OF ONTARIO



## General Certificate of Registration - Currency Condition

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### 1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

The College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO) is responsible for setting registration requirements in the province of Ontario in the public interest.

To ensure Members maintain the competence necessary to provide safe, effective, and ethical care, Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRTs) must comply with the currency condition imposed on their certificates of registration by section 55.1 of the Registration Regulation (Ontario Regulation 596/94, Part VIII). Members who do not meet the currency condition are not permitted to provide direct patient care or supervise the practice of the profession, unless authorized by the Registration Committee to practise under supervision.

### 2.0 PURPOSE

This policy outlines the criteria and process used by the CRTO to determine whether Registered Respiratory Therapists meet the currency condition. The objective is to ensure that RRTs remain competent and able to provide safe, ethical care consistent with public expectations and professional standards.

### 3.0 APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This policy applies to Members registered in the General Class of Registration (RRTs).

### 4.0 CONSIDERATIONS

#### Currency Condition

It is a condition of a General Certificate of Registration that in order to be permitted to engage in providing direct patient care or supervise the practice of the profession, a Member, at the end of every three-year period following the issuance of their General Certificate, has provided evidence satisfactory to the Registrar that the Member has practised respiratory therapy for **at least 1,125 hours during the three-year period.**

#### Practice Hours

For the purpose of meeting the practice hour requirement, a wide range of activities may be considered as practising Respiratory Therapy. These may include both clinical and non-clinical activities that draw on Respiratory Therapy knowledge, skill, and judgment, and that contribute to safe, competent, and ethical care. Such activities may involve direct patient care, leadership, education, administration, research, policy development, or quality improvement. Additionally, practicing Respiratory Therapy may involve both employment and relevant volunteer activities.



In determining whether an activity constitutes practising the profession, RRTs should reference the [Am I Practising? Fact Sheet](#).

### **Alternate Means of Satisfying the Currency Condition**

A Member who does not have at least 1,125 hours during the relevant three-year period may satisfy the currency condition through one of the following alternatives:

- a. Submission of evidence satisfactory to the Registration Committee through some other means that the Member meets current standards of practice. This may include proof of having completed activities that demonstrate maintenance of competence and support the delivery of safe, ethical care (e.g., continuing professional development and quality improvement activities); or
- b. Successful completion of a refresher course approved by the Registrar within the relevant three-year period.

### **Supervised Practice**

Where the Registration Committee determines that a Member does not meet the currency condition, it may permit the Member to provide direct patient care subject to a term, condition, or limitation on their certificate of registration requiring that the Member be supervised until they are able to provide evidence of having met the currency condition. The Committee may direct that the Member practice under:

- **General supervision**, where the supervisor is available within 10 minutes notice when the supervised RRT is providing direct patient care; or
- **Direct supervision**, where the supervisor is expected to be always personally present when the supervised RRT is providing direct patient care.

In determining the appropriate level of supervision, the Registration Committee will consider:

1. Years since graduation from the Member's Respiratory Therapy program
2. Time and duration of last practice
3. Nature and intensity of last practice
4. Extent and relevance of efforts to maintain competence while not practising.

The supervision condition will remain on the Member's certificate of registration until they are able to provide evidence satisfactory to the Registration Committee that they could meet the current standards of practice in Ontario.

## **5.0 MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE**

RRTs must annually declare whether they meet the currency condition as part of the registration renewal process. The CRTO may also conduct compliance audits by asking Members to provide proof of their practice hours.

RRTs who do not meet the currency condition may only provide direct patient care if authorized to do so under supervision by the Registration Committee. Non-clinical roles are not impacted. RRTs who do not meet the currency condition may not supervise the practice of the profession until they again meet the currency condition.



Failure to comply with a term, condition, or limitation on a certificate of registration constitutes professional misconduct and may lead to disciplinary action.

## 6.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Currency Guide](#)
- [Guide for Terms, Conditions, and Limitations imposed by the Registration Committee](#)
- [Application to Change Terms, Conditions and Limitations](#)

## 7.0 CONTACT INFORMATION

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