



Clarification on the Provision of Home Medical Equipment Services Involving Dangerous Drugs

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The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has received questions regarding home medical equipment, as it relates to respiratory equipment and the use of dangerous drugs. Installation and demonstration of home medical equipment used for the delivery of oxygen or other dangerous drugs may be conducted by home medical equipment service providers that are not licensed respiratory therapists. However, if the service involves administering and/or instructing in the use of medical gases or dangerous drugs (i.e. providing respiratory care), a licensed respiratory therapist must perform such functions.

As a reminder, "home medical equipment services" is defined as the sale, delivery, installation, maintenance, replacement, or demonstration of home medical equipment ([ORC 4752.01](#)).

"Respiratory care" is defined as rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, organizations, or the public any service involving the evaluation of cardiopulmonary function, the treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment, the assessment of treatment effectiveness, and the care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities associated with the cardiopulmonary system ([ORC 4761.01](#)).

The practice of respiratory care includes:

- (1) Obtaining, analyzing, testing, measuring, and monitoring blood and gas samples in the determination of cardiopulmonary parameters and related physiologic data, including flows, pressures, and volumes, and the use of equipment employed for this purpose;
- (2) Administering, monitoring, recording the results of, and instructing in the use of medical gases, aerosols, and bronchopulmonary hygiene techniques, including drainage, aspiration, and sampling, and applying, maintaining, and instructing in the use of artificial airways, ventilators, and other life support equipment employed in the treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment and provided in collaboration with other licensed health care professionals responsible for providing care;
- (3) Performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation and respiratory rehabilitation techniques;
- (4) Administering medications for the testing or treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment.

