



OBTAINING YOUR BRPT CREDENTIAL

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As sleep medicine has experienced rapid growth and has changed at a fast pace, the BRPT has also undergone many changes and new developments in the past few years. We have been very pleased with the overwhelming support that we hear from RPSGTs regarding the changes that have been implemented, particularly in relation to the increased educational requirements and recertification requirement for all RPSGTs.

The BRPT continues to confirm its belief that polysomnography is a specialized field of technology. There is an ever increasing need for education that provides a greater depth of understanding of sleep technology, scoring, PAP titration and patient assessment. This educational need far outweighs that which is provided in nursing programs, electroneurodiagnostic programs or respiratory care programs that do not offer an add-on polysomnography specific curriculum. The BRPT remains steadfast in our goal to continue to encourage and promote the development and accreditation of formal polysomnography programs.

For several years the BRPT has been gathering knowledge on recertification and considering what it means to be qualified at entry-level, and the implication of what it means for patient care when an organization supports the idea of "once certified, forever qualified". The technology associated with polysomnography is continually growing and changing, and the relationships between sleep disorders and other significant health related diseases are being discovered at an ever increasing pace. The BRPT wants consumers to know that we are being proactive in assuring that practicing RPSGTs possess the knowledge that is current and relevant, which enhances their ability to provide high quality patient care. The importance of recertification for all technologists was confirmed when the BRPT pursued and was granted accreditation through the NCCA. The BRPT believes that recertification is the right thing to do and is consistent with our mission of promoting quality patient care.

Registered Polysomnographic Technologists and exam candidates have been requesting more educational opportunities for several years. The AASM's self learning modules are an interim step that is a first step in addressing this issue. Requiring the completion of this course or equivalent programs for BRPT exam candidates is the first step in formalizing and standardizing educational requirements.

The BRPT continues to receive some requests for clarification of both the eligibility requirements that will go into effect in July of

2008 and the recertification requirements that became effective this year. Following is a summary regarding these issues.

Eligibility Requirements

Current eligibility requirements state that all candidates applying to take the BRPT examination, regardless of their eligibility pathway, must have certification in BCLS or CPR. International candidates must hold an equivalent credential. These certifications must be current at the time of testing. This requirement will not change.

All candidates must follow the BRPT Standards of Conduct and Policies and Procedures. There will be no change in this requirement.

Candidates applying for the BRPT examination who have completed a CAAHEP accredited program in polysomnography are eligible to take the examination immediately upon completion of their program. This includes successful completion of CAAHEP accredited stand-alone polysomnography (CoA PSG) programs OR accredited CoA RC OR CoA END programs with add-on polysomnography. By virtue of their CAAHEP accreditation related to sleep technology, candidates graduating from these programs automatically meet eligibility requirements because they will have already completed an "equivalent educational program". The changes that will be implemented in 2008 will not affect candidates who have graduated from CAAHEP-accredited programs.

There are two experiential pathways that candidates applying for the BRPT examination can take, however, both groups must meet the additional requirements.

Candidates with a minimum of 18 months of paid clinical experience where their job duties are primarily polysomnography - These candidates may or may not hold additional credentials. In July 2008, these candidates must provide documentation that they have completed the AASM web-based self-learning modules, or an equivalent; however, they will not be required to complete the A-Step 80 hour didactic course.

Candidates that have completed a minimum of 6 months of paid clinical experience where their job duties are primarily polysomnography - This candidate group must also hold another credential, e.g., RRT, CRT, R. EEG T., RN, LPN, MD, D.O or National EMT-P. In July 2008, they must also provide documentation that they have completed the AASM web-based self-

