



## Clarification of Current Licensee Practice

### Mechanical Ventilation Care

As reported in earlier joint statements from the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) and the Respiratory Care Board (RCB), the Boards met multiple times in 2018 and 2019 to discuss concerns related to scope of practice specific to mechanical ventilation. As a result of those discussions, the BVNPT determined that there is a need for legislation and associated regulations to specify the roles of vocational nurses (VNs) and psychiatric technicians (PTs) when caring for patients on mechanical ventilation.

The BVNPT is working to develop a legislative proposal, which, pending Board approval, will authorize the BVNPT to offer Board-Certification to VNs and PTs related to the care of patients on mechanical ventilation. The certification will include completion of a certified course approved by the Board and a mechanism for demonstrating clinical competency. The BVNPT recently held Stakeholder Meetings to obtain input from nursing/medical professionals, clinical organizations, current course providers, healthcare advocates and other interested parties regarding this legislation.

Although the BVNPT has begun the process of developing the appropriate legislation, it must be noted that the legislative process takes time. Until new legislation and associated regulations are approved, the Board is, by virtue of this statement, clarifying that the existing scope of practice of licensees governed by this Board **has not changed**.

If you have further questions about this information, please contact the Board through the following scope of practice email address:

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