



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES THÉRAPEUTES RESPIRATOIRES

## Implementation of Credential Maintenance Requirements for RRTs Practicing in Jurisdictions Where the RT Profession is Not Regulated

Through consultation with Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential holders, healthcare leaders and the British Columbia Society of Respiratory Therapists (BCSRT), the Canadian Society Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) is aware of challenges to respiratory therapists' practice in jurisdictions where the profession is not regulated. This has a negative impact on the understanding and recognition of the RRT role and scope of practice, with possible erosion of scope.

To ensure the RRT credential remains respected amongst healthcare system leadership as a valued requirement for practice, to ensure RRTs maintain currency in practice and competency development, and to align with national credentialing best practices, effective April 1, 2025, the CSRT will enforce new maintenance requirements for the RRT credential in jurisdictions where the respiratory therapy (RT) profession is not regulated.

**Background:** The CSRT's RRT credential is a demonstration that an individual has achieved and adheres to the national competency standards for the practice of RT in Canada, in accordance with the [National Competency Framework for RT](#). The CSRT is the only body who may confer the RRT credential in jurisdictions where the profession is not regulated (e.g. British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon). RRTs working in these jurisdictions must maintain registration with the CSRT to maintain the RRT credential: those who do not are uncredentialed.

In jurisdictions where the RT profession is not regulated, it is apparent that confusion exists about whether RRTs should be performing activities normally within scope (e.g., low flow oxygen therapy without an order, IV insertion, defibrillation, and interprofessional education), many of which have been part of RRT practice.

**CSRT Action:** It is imperative that the CSRT ensure that those outside the RT profession, including health system leaders and decision makers, understand and respect the RRT credential. Part of this understanding will be achieved by the CSRT communicating the credential standards of the profession. CSRT advocacy work will continue to focus on achievement of this aim.

Furthermore, through implementation of CSRT credential quality assurance mechanisms, RRTs in jurisdiction where the RT profession is not regulated will be required to demonstrate their attainment of credential standards and their continued currency in practice.

**Effective April 1, 2025, the CSRT will enforce new maintenance requirements for the RRT credential in jurisdictions where the RT profession is not regulated.** RRTs working in non-regulated jurisdictions will be required to:

- Maintain ongoing registration with the CSRT, and
- Complete 25 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits annually.
- A random audit of 10% of individuals holding the RRT credential from the CSRT will occur annually.

## **FAQs:**

### **How do I get the CSRT's RRT credential?**

Application for the CSRT's RRT credential can be made via the [CSRT website](#).

### **How do I know if I am eligible for the CSRT's RRT credential?**

Eligibility for the RRT credential can only be confirmed by the CSRT, and this is done at the time of application for registration, or registration renewal (annually).

To meet the eligibility requirements for registration with the CSRT, one must demonstrate attainment and ongoing demonstration of the practice standards of the RT profession. Those applying within a specified period after graduation from an accredited program must meet baseline eligibility requirements (e.g. passing the national credentialing exam). Additional eligibility requirements exist for those applying for registration outside of that specified period after graduation, and for those renewing registration (e.g. remain in good standing, and compliance with CSRT's ongoing continuing professional development standards).

### **What do I need to do to maintain my registration with the CSRT?**

Renewal of CSRT registration is required annually. Information on the annual renewal is provided by the CSRT in advance of each renewal period.

### **Does this new process change my workplace requirements relative to being registered?**

No, the CSRT does not seek to influence workplace requirements, but to reinforce and strengthen the RRT credential. In jurisdictions where the respiratory therapy profession is not regulated, the employer is the *de facto* regulator, tasked with protecting the public. As such, they remain responsible for determining employment requirements.

### **Will these new credential maintenance requirements impact the roll out of licensure in BC?**

These measures will not replace regulation when it comes into effect. The CSRT will not be assuming any regulatory responsibilities and will continue to advocate for the implementation of RT Regulation in all jurisdictions.

### **What if I need to provide verification of my RRT credential to an employer or other party?**

The CSRT will not release information on an individual's RRT credential without their consent. Unlike regulatory colleges which, under Acts of Legislation, publish the names of licensees, the CSRT is bound by privacy legislation that prohibits it from publishing the names of individuals holding CSRT credentials.

The CSRT has established two pathways to verify registration:

1. Individuals holding the RRT credential from the CSRT can log into the [member portal](#) and obtain an annual certificate of registration, OR
2. The CSRT can provide confirmation of registration to third parties (e.g., employers) with the one-time consent from the individual in question.

## **What are the audit requirements necessary to fulfill the annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirement (25 credits per year)?**

A wide variety of CPD activities are recognized for credit. A list of [approved activities](#) and their respective credits is available on the CSRT website.

It is strongly recommended that each individual possessing the RRT credential from the CSRT maintains an up-to-date record of their CPD activities. The record should contain sufficient detail to confirm each activity meets the standards for CSRT CPD credits and include evidence of completion for each activity. This list is not required to be submitted each year, only in the event of an audit (see next section).

RRTs may use a tool of their choice to track their CPD activities. The CSRT offers a credit tracking system within its member portal but does not require its use for CPD records or audit purposes.

## **How does CSRT determine who will be audited each year?**

Ten percent of those holding the RRT credential conferred by the CSRT will undergo a CPD audit each year. These individuals will be randomly selected and will be informed by email. They will have 90 days to submit their CPD record for the previous membership year, evidence of completion for each activity listed in the record, and a learning plan for the upcoming year. Instructions on how to submit these items will be included in the audit notification email.

## **What happens if I fail to meet the maintenance requirements?**

In the instance where an individual previously granted the RRT credential by the CSRT does not meet maintenance requirements, their RRT credential as conferred by the CSRT will be deemed “lapsed.” Their membership will revert to an Associate Membership, and they may not use CSRT’s RRT credential until such time as the lapse is resolved and the CSRT confirms that the designation has been reinstated.

In the case of an individual deemed not to be in good standing due to non-payment of required membership fees, good standing may be regained through payment of membership fees without penalty up to one month (31 days) after the lapsed period. After 31 days, the individual will also be automatically subject to participating in the annual RRT audit during the year in which they renew their registered membership.

In the case of an individual deemed not to be in good standing due to an unsuccessful CPD audit or due to failure to participate in the annual CPD audit, good standing may be regained through a CSRT-guided remediation process.

**Any additional questions can be sent to the [CSRT](#).**