**02-343**

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS**

2025-2026 Regulatory Agenda

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **02-343**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Professional & Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, **Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners**

CONTACT INFORMATION for thE agency **RULEMAKING LIAISON**: Penny Vaillancourt, Director, OPOR, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-441-7153, penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None.

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULEMAKING ACTIVITY:**

Expected rulemaking will be to implement legislation governing licensure by endorsement and provisional licensure and telehealth services. A review for conformance with statutes and current rules will be conducted and updated as may be necessary, including an update to discontinue the use of the terms “handicap,” “handicapped” and “hearing impaired” pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 2557, sub-§2.

**CHAPTER 1**: **Definitions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 9704

PURPOSE: This chapter defines terms used throughout the Board's rules. The Board may review this chapter for conformance with statutes and make updates as may be necessary.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 2**: **Advisory Rulings**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 M.R.S. § 9001; 32 M.R.S. § 9704

PURPOSE: This chapter sets forth procedures for the issuance of advisory rulings by the board. This chapter may be subject to review for updates as may be necessary.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 3**: **License Requirements for Respiratory Care Practitioners**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 9702(6) and (7), 9704(1) and (2), 9705, 9706‑A, 9707-A, 9711

PURPOSE: This chapter defines and describes eligibility requirements for Respiratory Therapists, Respiratory Care Technicians, temporary licensees and trainees. This chapter also sets forth license renewal procedures for Respiratory Therapists and Respiratory Care Technicians. This chapter may be subject to review for updates as may be necessary.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure and Licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 6**: **Code of Ethics**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 9704(2)

PURPOSE: This chapter specifies the manner in which respiratory care practitioners shall practice respiratory care. The Board may review this chapter and make changes to reflect current practice expectations for the protection of the public being served.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 7**: **Misconduct**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 9704(2)

PURPOSE: This chapter provides examples of inappropriate behaviors that would constitute unprofessional conduct. The Board may review this for conformance with current statutes and make changes as needed.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: N/A**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 9714

PURPOSE: To adopt rules to establish standards of practice and appropriate restrictions for the various types and forms of telehealth services.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER NUMBER and Title: N/A**

STATUTORY BASIS: 10 M.R.S. § 8003-H, § 8003-5-A(D)(7)

PURPOSE: The Board may adopt rules to establish a process to issue a license by endorsement or to grant provisional licenses to applicants from other jurisdictions.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within the year.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A