

Certified Respiratory Therapist Exam Review Guide

Edited by

CRAIG L. SCANLAN, EdD, RRT, FAARC
Professor, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
School of Health Related Professions
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Newark, NJ

ALBERT J. HEUER, PhD, MBA, RRT, RPFT
Associate Professor, Program Director
Respiratory Care—North
School of Health Related Professions
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Newark, NJ

LOUIS M. SINOPOLI, EdD, RRT, AE-C
Professor and Director
Respiratory Care Program
Health Sciences and Athletics Division
El Camino College
Torrance, California



JONES AND BARTLETT PUBLISHERS
Sudbury, Massachusetts
BOSTON TORONTO LONDON SINGAPORE

World Headquarters

Jones and Bartlett Publishers
40 Tall Pine Drive
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-443-5000
info@jbpub.com
www.jbpub.com

Jones and Bartlett Publishers
Canada
6339 Ormindale Way
Mississauga, Ontario L5V 1J2
Canada

Jones and Bartlett Publishers
International
Barb House, Barb Mews
London W6 7PA
United Kingdom

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Production Credits

Publisher: David Cella
Associate Editor: Maro Gartside
Production Manager: Julie Champagne Bolduc
Production Assistant: Jessica Steele Newfell
Senior Marketing Manager: Sophie Fleck
Manufacturing and Inventory Control Supervisor: Amy Bacus
Composition: Publishers' Design and Production Services
Cover Design: Kristin E. Parker
Cover and Chapter-Opening Images: © Photodisc
Printing and Binding: Courier Stoughton
Cover Printing: Courier Stoughton

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Certified respiratory therapist exam review guide / [edited by] Craig L. Scanlan, Albert J. Heuer, Louis M. Sinopoli.
p. ; cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-7637-5511-9 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. Respiratory therapy—Examinations—Study guides. I. Scanlan, Craig L., 1947– II. Heuer, Albert J. III. Sinopoli, Louis M.

[DNLM: 1. Respiratory Therapy—methods—Examination Questions. WB 18.2 S283c 2010]

RC735.I5C464 2010

615.8'36076—dc22

2009008731

6048

Printed in the United States of America

13 12 11 10 09 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

*To my family and my past, current, and future students, from whom I continue
to draw enthusiasm and inspiration.*

— CLS

*To my wife, Laurel, as well as my fellow educators and respiratory therapists,
who encouraged me to pursue this text and inspired me
towards its completion.*

— AJH

*To my family, friends, and the profession, as they are the motivation for all I do,
and I thank them for that every day.*

— LMS

Contents

Preface	<i>xi</i>		
Contributors	<i>xiii</i>		
<hr/>			
SECTION I		SECTION II	
Preparing for and Passing the NBRC CRT Exam	1	Patient Data Evaluation and Recommendations	41
Chapter 1		Chapter 3	
Using This Book and CD: Your Roadmap to Success	3	Review Existing Data in Patient Record	43
Introduction	3	Introduction	43
The Plan	3	Objectives	43
The Tools and Materials	4	What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	44
<i>Book Overview</i>	4	What's New for 2009	44
<i>Chapter Structure and Content</i>	4	Pre-Test	44
<i>Supplementary CD</i>	5	What You Need to Know: Essential Content	45
The Strategy	6	<i>The Patient Record</i>	45
<i>For Those Who Have Previously Taken the CRT Exam</i>	6	<i>Patient History</i>	46
<i>Chapter Review Process</i>	6	<i>Physical Examination Relative to the Cardiopulmonary System</i>	47
<i>Take the Mock Exam</i>	8	<i>Pulmonary Function Testing Results</i>	49
<i>Schedule and Take the CRT Exam</i>	8	<i>Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) Results</i>	50
		<i>Imaging Studies</i>	52
		<i>Monitoring Data</i>	53
		<i>Cardiac Monitoring</i>	55
		<i>Maternal History and Perinatal and Neonatal History and Data</i>	55
		Common Errors to Avoid	58
Chapter 2		Sure Bets	58
Test-Taking Tips and Techniques	10	Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	59
Introduction	10		
How to Fail the CRT Exam	10	Chapter 4	
General Preparation Tips	11	Collect and Evaluate Pertinent Clinical Information	61
<i>Be Prepared!</i>	11	Introduction	61
Become a Wise Guy (or Gal): Developing Test-Wiseness	18	Objectives	61
<i>General Tips for Multiple-Choice Items</i>	19	What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	62
<i>Specific Tips for Common NBRC-Type Items</i>	27	What's New for 2009	62
Taking the Test	36	Pre-Test	62
<i>Know What to Expect When Reporting to the Testing Center</i>	36	What You Need to Know: Essential Content	65
<i>Be Familiar with the Exam Format</i>	37		
<i>Strategies to Employ During the Test</i>	38		

Contents

<i>Assess the Patient's Overall</i>		
<i>Cardiopulmonary Status by Inspection</i>	65	
<i>Assess the Patient's Overall</i>		
<i>Cardiopulmonary Status by Palpation</i>	72	
<i>Assess the Patient's Overall</i>		
<i>Cardiopulmonary Status by Percussion</i>	75	
<i>Assess the Patient's Overall</i>		
<i>Cardiopulmonary Status by Auscultation</i>	76	
<i>Integrating Physical Examination Findings</i>	77	
<i>Interview the Patient</i>	78	
<i>Assess the Patient's Learning Needs</i>	83	
<i>Review and Interpret the Chest Radiograph</i>	85	
<i>Review Lateral Neck Radiographs</i>	87	
<i>Perform and Interpret Results of Selected</i>		
<i>Diagnostic Procedures</i>	89	
Common Errors to Avoid	125	
Sure Bets	126	
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	126	
Chapter 5		
Recommend Procedures to Obtain		
Additional Data	131	
Introduction	131	
Objectives	131	
What to Expect on This Category of the		
CRT Exam	131	
What's New for 2009	132	
Pre-Test	132	
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	133	
<i>Radiographic and Other Imaging Studies</i>	133	
<i>Diagnostic Bronchoscopy</i>	133	
<i>Bronchoalveolar Lavage</i>	133	
<i>Sputum Gram Stain, Culture, and</i>		
<i>Sensitivity</i>	135	
<i>Pulmonary Function Testing</i>	136	
<i>Lung Mechanics</i>	136	
<i>Blood Gas Analysis, Pulse Oximetry, and</i>		
<i>Transcutaneous Monitoring</i>	137	
<i>Capnography</i>	139	
<i>Electrocardiography</i>	139	
<i>Hemodynamic Monitoring</i>	140	
<i>Sleep Studies</i>	140	
Common Errors to Avoid	142	
Sure Bets	142	
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	142	
SECTION III		
Equipment Application and		
Cleanliness	145	
Chapter 6		
Manipulate Equipment by Order or		
Protocol	147	
Introduction	147	
Objectives	147	
What to Expect on This Category of the		
CRT Exam	148	
What's New for 2009	148	
Pre-Test	148	
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	151	
<i>Oxygen Administration Devices</i>	151	
<i>Humidifiers, Nebulizers, and Mist Tents</i>	160	
<i>Resuscitation Devices</i>	164	
<i>Ventilators, CPAP Devices, and Breathing</i>		
<i>Circuits</i>	166	
<i>Types of Circuits</i>	167	
<i>Artificial Airways</i>	174	
<i>Vacuum Systems, Suction, and Pleural</i>		
<i>Drainage Devices</i>	174	
<i>Gas Cylinders, Reducing Valves,</i>		
<i>Flowmeters, and O₂ Blenders</i>	183	
<i>Point-of-Care Blood Gas Analyzers</i>	187	
<i>Incentive Breathing Devices</i>	188	
<i>Percussors and Vibrators</i>	190	
<i>Positive Expiratory Pressure Devices</i>	192	
<i>Manometers</i>	194	
<i>Bedside Pulmonary Function Devices</i>	198	
<i>O₂, He, CO, and Specialty Gas Analyzers</i>	203	
<i>ECG Monitors and 12-Lead ECG Machines</i>	203	
<i>Noninvasive Oximetry Monitoring</i>		
<i>Devices</i>	208	
<i>Aerosol Drug Delivery Systems</i>	210	
<i>Bronchoscopes</i>	214	
Common Errors to Avoid	216	
Sure Bets	216	
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	217	
Post-Test	220	

Chapter 7**Ensure Infection Control 222**

Introduction	222
Objectives	222
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	223
What's New for 2009	223
Pre-Test	223
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	224
<i>Key Terms and Definitions</i>	224
<i>Ensuring Equipment Cleanliness</i>	224
<i>Properly Handle Biobazardous Materials</i>	228
<i>Adhere to Infection Control Policies and Procedures</i>	229
<i>Incorporate Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia Protocol</i>	231
<i>Implement Specific Infectious Disease Protocols</i>	233
Common Errors to Avoid	236
Sure Bets	236
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	237
Post-Test	238

Chapter 8**Perform Quality Control Procedures 239**

Introduction	239
Objectives	239
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	239
What's New for 2009	240
Pre-Test	240
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	241
<i>Key Terms and Definitions</i>	241
<i>Laboratory Blood Gas and Hemoximetry Analyzers</i>	241
<i>Point-of-Care Analyzers</i>	247
<i>Pulmonary Function Equipment</i>	247
<i>Mechanical Ventilators</i>	251
<i>Gas Analyzers</i>	251
<i>Noninvasive Monitors</i>	253
<i>Gas Delivery and Metering Devices</i>	255
Common Errors to Avoid	256
Sure Bets	256
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	256
Post-Test	257

SECTION IV**Initiation and Modification of Therapeutic Procedure 259****Chapter 9****Maintain Records and Communicate Information 261**

Introduction	261
Objectives	261
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	261
What's New for 2009	262
Pre-Test	262
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	263
<i>Accept and Verify Patient Care Orders</i>	263
<i>Recording Therapy and Results</i>	264
<i>Communicating Information</i>	270
<i>Applying Computer Technology to Medical Record Keeping</i>	271
<i>Explaining Planned Therapy and Goals to Patients</i>	271
<i>Communicating Results of Therapy and Alter Therapy According to Protocol(s)</i>	272
<i>Educating the Patient and Family</i>	273
Common Errors to Avoid	274
Sure Bets	274
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	274
Post-Test	276

Chapter 10**Maintain Patient Airway/Care of Artificial Airways 278**

Introduction	278
Objectives	278
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	278
What's New for 2009	279
Pre-Test	279
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	280
<i>Position Patients Properly</i>	280
<i>Insert Oro- and Nasopharyngeal Airways</i>	280
<i>Endotracheal Intubation</i>	283
<i>Tracheotomy</i>	287
<i>Tracheal Airway Cuff Management</i>	291
<i>Troubleshooting Tracheal Airways</i>	293
<i>Alternative Emergency Airways</i>	296
<i>Maintaining Adequate Humidification</i>	301
<i>Perform Extubation</i>	304
Common Errors to Avoid	305
Sure Bets	305

Contents

Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	305	<i>Treating and Preventing Hypoxemia</i>	369
Post-Test	307	Common Errors to Avoid	372
		Sure Bets	373
		Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	373
		Post-Test	376
Chapter 11		Chapter 13	
Remove Bronchopulmonary Secretions	308	Evaluate and Monitor Patient's Objective and Subjective Responses to Respiratory Care	377
Introduction	308	Introduction	377
Objectives	308	Objectives	377
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	308	What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	378
What's New for 2009	308	What's New for 2009	378
Pre-Test	308	Pre-Test	378
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	310	What You Need to Know: Essential Content	381
<i>Selecting the Best Approach</i>	310	<i>Recommend and Review Chest Radiographs</i>	381
<i>Postural Drainage, Percussion, Vibration, and Turning</i>	310	<i>Obtain a Blood Gas Sample</i>	383
<i>Instruct and Encourage Bronchopulmonary Hygiene Techniques</i>	314	<i>Perform Blood Gas and CO-Oximetry Analysis</i>	388
<i>Mechanical Devices to Facilitate Secretion Clearance</i>	316	<i>Interpret Blood Gas and CO-Oximetry Results</i>	389
<i>Clearance of Secretions via Suctioning</i>	318	<i>Perform Pulse Oximetry</i>	392
<i>Administer Aerosol Therapy with Prescribed Medications</i>	324	<i>Perform Capnography</i>	394
<i>Administration of Prescribed Agents</i>	325	<i>Perform Transcutaneous Monitoring</i>	395
Common Errors to Avoid	325	<i>Hemodynamic Assessment</i>	395
Sure Bets	326	<i>Measure and Record Vital Signs and Cardiac Rhythm and Evaluate Fluid Balance</i>	395
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	326	<i>Perform and Interpret Results of Pulmonary Function Testing</i>	401
Post-Test	327	<i>Recommend Blood Tests</i>	401
		<i>Observe Changes in Sputum Characteristics</i>	401
Chapter 12		<i>Auscultate Chest and Interpret Changes in Breath Sounds</i>	402
Achieve Adequate Respiratory Support	329	<i>Observe for Signs of Patient-Ventilator Asynchrony</i>	403
Introduction	329	<i>Adjust and Check Alarm Systems</i>	405
Objectives	329	<i>Monitor and Assess Airway Pressures</i>	405
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	330	<i>Monitor and Assess I:E Ratios</i>	411
What's New for 2009	330	<i>Interpret Airway Graphics</i>	412
Pre-Test	330	<i>Measure FIO₂ and/or Liter Flow</i>	416
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	333	Common Errors to Avoid	417
<i>Instruct Patients in Deep Breathing/ Muscle Training</i>	333	Sure Bets	417
<i>Initiate and Adjust Mechanical Ventilation</i>	336	Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	418
<i>Select Ventilator Graphics</i>	354	Post-Test	420
<i>Apply Disease-Specific Ventilator Protocols</i>	355		
<i>Initiate and Select Appropriate Settings for High-Frequency Ventilation</i>	358		
<i>Initiate and Modify Weaning Procedures</i>	360		
<i>Administer Medications</i>	363		

Chapter 14**Independently Modify Therapeutic Procedures Based on the Patient's Response****422**

Introduction	422
Objectives	422
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	422
What's New for 2009	422
Pre-Test	423
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	427
<i>Terminating Treatment Based on Patient's Response to Therapy</i>	427
<i>Modifying Treatment Techniques</i>	427
Common Errors to Avoid	448
Sure Bets	449
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	450
Post-Test	453

Chapter 15**Recommend Modifications in the Respiratory Care Plan****454**

Introduction	454
Objectives	454
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	454
What's New for 2009	455
Pre-Test	455
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	459
<i>Recommending Changes in Bronchial Hygiene Therapy</i>	459
<i>Recommending Changes in Patient Positioning</i>	460
<i>Recommending Insertion and/or Modifications of Artificial Airways</i>	460
<i>Recommending Treatment of a Pneumothorax</i>	461
<i>Recommending Adjustment in Fluid Balance</i>	461
<i>Recommending Adjustment of Electrolyte Therapy</i>	462
<i>Recommending the Initiation and Modification of Pharmacologic Therapy</i>	464
<i>Recommending Sedation and Neuromuscular Blockade</i>	465
<i>Recommending Changes in Oxygen Therapy</i>	468
<i>Recommending Changes in Mechanical Ventilation</i>	468
<i>Recommending Weaning from Mechanical Ventilation and Extubation</i>	478

Common Errors to Avoid	479
Sure Bets	480
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	480
Post-Test	483

Chapter 16**Determine Appropriateness of the Prescribed Respiratory Care Plan and Recommend Modifications When Indicated****484**

Introduction	484
Objectives	484
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	484
What's New for 2009	484
Pre-Test	485
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	486
<i>Analyzing Available Data to Determine Pathophysiological State</i>	486
<i>Reviewing Planned Therapy to Establish Therapeutic Plan</i>	487
<i>Determining Appropriateness of Prescribed Therapy and Goals for Identified Pathophysiological State</i>	487
<i>Recommending Changes in Therapeutic Plan When Indicated Based on Data</i>	487
<i>Performing Respiratory Care Quality Assurance</i>	487
<i>Developing, Monitoring, and Applying Respiratory Care Protocols</i>	491
Common Errors to Avoid	495
Sure Bets	495
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	495
Post-Test	497

Chapter 17**Initiate, Conduct, or Modify Respiratory Care Techniques in an Emergency Setting****498**

Introduction	498
Objectives	498
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	498
What's New for 2009	499
Pre-Test	499
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	500
<i>Basic Life Support (BLS)</i>	500
<i>Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)</i>	500
<i>Pediatric and Neonatal Emergencies</i>	504
<i>Treat a Tension Pneumothorax</i>	505
<i>Patient Transport</i>	507

Contents

<i>Medical Emergency Teams</i>	512	Chapter 20	
<i>Disaster Management</i>	512	Perform Cardiopulmonary Calculations	560
Common Errors to Avoid	515	Objectives	560
Sure Bets	515	What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	560
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	515	Pre-Test	561
Post-Test	516	Ventilation Calculations	562
		Oxygenation Calculations	564
		Pulmonary Mechanics	566
		Pulmonary Function Calculations	566
		Cardiovascular Calculations	568
		Equipment Calculations	570
		Drug Calculations	572
		Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	573
		Post-Test	573
		Appendix A	
		Entry Level CRT Examination Detailed Content Outline	574
		Appendix B	
		What Is On the CD	592
		Hardware and Software Requirements	592
		Testing Software	592
		<i>Installation</i>	592
		<i>Use</i>	592
		<i>Exiting the Program</i>	594
		Internet Resources	594
		<i>Access</i>	594
		<i>Use</i>	594
		Jones and Bartlett Technical Support	594
		Appendix C	
		Online CRT Review Course	595
		Index	596
Chapter 18			
Act As an Assistant to the Physician Performing Special Procedures	518		
Introduction	518		
Objectives	518		
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	518		
What's New for 2009	518		
Pre-Test	519		
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	520		
<i>Endotracheal Intubation</i>	520		
<i>Bronchoscopy Assisting</i>	525		
<i>Tracheotomy</i>	529		
<i>Thoracentesis</i>	531		
<i>Chest Tube Insertion (Tube Thoracostomy)</i>	533		
<i>Cardioversion</i>	534		
<i>Moderate (Conscious) Sedation</i>	536		
Common Errors to Avoid	536		
Sure Bets	537		
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	537		
Post-Test	538		
Chapter 19			
Initiate and Conduct Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Home Care	540		
Introduction	540		
Objectives	540		
What to Expect on This Category of the CRT Exam	540		
What's New for 2009	540		
Pre-Test	541		
What You Need to Know: Essential Content	542		
<i>Pulmonary Rehabilitation</i>	542		
<i>Smoking Cessation and Nicotine Intervention</i>	545		
<i>Respiratory Home Care</i>	547		
Common Errors to Avoid	557		
Sure Bets	557		
Pre-Test Answers and Explanations	558		
Post-Test	559		

Preface

As the editors were preparing this text, colleagues often would ask us if another respiratory therapy exam review book was really needed. Our reply was “not another book, but a different one.” With our combined experience of over 100 years in preparing students and graduates for the NBRC exams, we have come to realize that “book knowledge” alone does not assure a passing score. Over time, we have observed that the candidates most likely to do well on these tests are those who know exactly what and how to study, and who are confident in their test-taking abilities. Our goal is to share with all respiratory therapy students and graduates this basic formula: to provide you with the same test knowledge, skills, and strategies that successful candidates use to score highly on the CRT exam.

What makes this book fundamentally different is its approach. First, unlike many other review books, this one focuses your attention exclusively on the CRT exam content. Each topical chapter corresponds *exactly* to a specific content area covered on the current exam. This approach lets you concentrate on the specific knowledge and skills tested in each area, at the levels set by the NBRC for that specific content. Moreover, to distill this content down to what you absolutely need to know, we have formatted much of the book content using simple outlines and tables with a minimum of long-winded narrative.

Second, we provide you with a tried-and-true plan for success. Our plan is based on the decades of experience we have in successfully helping thousands of candidates pass the CRT exam. The basic strategy involves a minimum of 6–8 weeks of preparation, whereby you proceed systematically through each chapter of the text, using both a pre- and post-test to assess your knowledge and confirm its mastery. The plan culminates with you taking and passing a mock CRT-like exam (the chapter post-tests and mock exam are provided on the CD).

Third, we provide key test-taking guidance, designed specifically to allay anxiety, build confidence, and boost your CRT exam scores. Besides providing a full chapter on test-taking techniques, every topical chapter in the text includes critical lists of both common testing errors and the correct approaches you should always take in selected clinical problems or scenarios. Also, you can build additional confidence by repeating the practice tests that draw on our 800+ question item pool.

We also provide special guidance for those who heretofore have been unsuccessful in achieving their goal of becoming a Certified Respiratory Therapist. First, in every topical chapter we identify the latest content that the NBRC recently added to its 2009 CRT exam matrix. Given that there are over 40 new topical areas on the exam, no one should consider retaking this test without full knowledge of these important changes. Second, because our content parallels the CRT exam, you can easily focus your preparation for retesting on just those specific topics where you previously did poorly.

Lastly, for those needing additional assistance beyond what the book provides, we provide access to some important supplemental resources. In addition to the testing software on the CD, you will find a wealth of exam-related World Wide Web resources. The editors and authors have sought out, evaluated, and selected the very best respiratory care resources on the Internet and organized them for you based on the NBRC matrix. In this manner, if you need to review a specific content area, you can simply select the relevant chapter/NBRC content area and link to the selected Web subject matter. For those needing additional personal support, including access to unlimited practice testing based on a 3,000+ item pool of NBRC-like questions (all automatically scored and provided with answer explanations), we recommend that you consider the Online CRT Examination Review course described in Appendix C. As an added benefit, purchasers of this book are eligible for a discounted enrollment fee for this comprehensive Web-based course.

Preparing for and passing the CRT exam is a major task. To achieve any major task, you need the right plan and the right materials. This book provides you with both. Follow our plan, use the tools we provide and the strategies we recommend, and you can achieve this important goal!

— CLS, AJH, & LMS

Contributors

Salomay R. Corbaley, MBA, RRT, NPS, AE-C

Director of Respiratory Therapy
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children
Honolulu, HI

Sandra McCleaster, MA, RRT, NPS

Adjunct Faculty
Bergen Community College
Paramus, NJ

Roy Mekaru, BS, MHA, RRT, NPS

Director of Clinical Education
El Camino College
Torrance, CA

Narciso E. Rodriguez, BS, RRT, RPFT, NPS, AE-C

Assistant Professor, Department of Primary Care
School of Health Related Professions
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Newark, NJ

John A. Rutkowski, MBA, MPA, RRT, FACHE

Assistant Professor, Department of Primary Care
School of Health Related Professions
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Newark, NJ

Brian X. Weaver, MS, RRT, RPFT, NPS

Director of Respiratory Therapy
The University Hospital
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Newark, NJ

Robert L. Wilkins, PhD, RRT, FAARC

Clinical Professor, Department of Respiratory Care
University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio, TX

Kenneth A. Wyka, MS, RRT, FAARC

Cardiopulmonary Clinical Specialist
Anthem Health Services
Albany, NY

