

respiratory care procedures have documented training and on-going continuing education, and are regulated in a manner consistent with requirements for other practitioners providing respiratory care. Currently, polysomnographic personnel practicing in sleep laboratories are not regulated and there is no required oversight of such personnel possibly placing patients in those facilities at risk. Polysomnographic personnel assess and correct the oxygenation and ventilation of patients while they sleep.

Polysomnography means the process of analyzing, monitoring and recording physiologic data during sleep and wakefulness to assist in the assessment and diagnosis of sleep-wake disorders.

Polysomnographic-related respiratory care services are limited to the use of oxygen, noninvasive ventilatory assistance, pulse oximetry and capnography and provide patient education in compliance with physician orders.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RLD will need to promulgate rules to issue, renew and monitor licenses, certificates or permits to persons qualified to provide polysomnography-related respiratory care services.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

RLD notes that the language in the bill was developed by members of the New Mexico Society for Respiratory Care who operate sleep labs in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Gallup, and Clovis. HB 246 incorporates language into the Respiratory Care Act that has been approved and enacted by other state legislatures.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The training and abilities of personnel practicing in sleep labs will continue to be unregulated posing a health risk for clients seeking assessment of sleep-wake disorders.

AHO/mt