



CoARC Communication to our Communities of Interest:

Changes to Positive (Job) Placement Outcomes Measure

November 21, 2015

As a result of the CoARC's ongoing effort to ensure that its policies and procedures ensure fair and consistent accreditation decisions, the Board of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) approved the following changes to the positive (job) placement outcomes measure which became effective 11/21/2015:

- The minimum threshold of 70% for positive (job) placement has been eliminated;
- Positive (job) placement is now defined as *"a graduate who, within the three year reporting period, is employed utilizing skills within the scope of practice of the respiratory care profession (i.e., full-time, part-time, or per diem)."*

Although CoARC will continue to require reporting of positive (job) placement on the Annual Report of Current Status, we will not be making accreditation actions based solely on positive (job) placement results. Positive (job) placement results for each program, along with other outcomes data, will continue to be published on our website as part of our commitment to provide the public with information regarding program outcomes and to allow potential students to use this information as a measure of programmatic quality during the application process.

Rationale for the Decision

The CoARC has adopted the principle that accreditation is a process that provides assurance to prospective students, their families and the public that accredited programs meet certain minimum requirements (i.e., *Accreditation Standards*). Accreditation actions taken by the CoARC are based solely on the sponsoring institution's demonstration of compliance with the published *Standards*.

The primary purpose of accreditation is to ensure that accredited programs produce graduates who are adequately trained to practice in their profession. The CoARC has specific criteria by which this determination is made. For example during the accreditation process, the CoARC determines such things as: whether the curriculum covers all the skills that a respiratory therapist will need for entry into practice; and whether each student will have sufficient patient encounters to master all necessary clinical skills. The CoARC also decides whether a program has sufficient resources to provide all its students with a quality education. The CoARC makes accreditation decisions based on outcome measures that are within the purview and control of a program and has therefore determined that positive (job) placement will no longer be used in making an accreditation decision.

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Tom Smalling, Executive Director at (817) 283-2835 ext. 101, or by email at: tom@coarc.com