



Long-Term Care: A Growing Field for RTs

Top benefits of your section:

Long-term care (LTC) has come a long way from the days of the traditional nursing home concept, and the changes pose new and unique challenges to the profession. We are seeing an explosion of opportunities for RTs in the LTC segment, which includes long-term acute care hospitals, subacute rehabilitation facilities, and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), as well as newly emerging sites of care such as specialty group homes for ventilated patients. By being involved with the section, RTs can hear of such opportunities, share ideas, and network with others who are working in the arena.

Who:

Gene Gantt, RRT

What:

**Manager REMEO
Ventilation, USA, Linde
RSS LLC/REMEO USA**

Where:

Livingston, TN

What you have done recently:

In 2009 the section drafted a position statement on “Delivery of Respiratory Therapy Services in Skilled Nursing Facilities Providing Ventilator and/or High Acuity Respiratory Care,” which was approved by the AARC Board of Directors and Board of Medical Advisors. As section chair, I presented to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on the issues of long-term ventilator care in SNFs and the need for these uniform standards of care to be implemented, as well as the need for higher Medicare reimbursement and more demand for outcomes-driven programs. That effort was followed by the release of the RUGs IV payment in late 2010, which nearly doubled the rate paid to SNFs for the ventilator and tracheostomized population. With the increased rates and standards to work from, there has been tremendous growth in access to long-term ventilator beds across the United States and a subsequent increase in opportunities for RTs in that environment.

In Tennessee, the section provided input to the state Medicaid program (TennCare) as well, which resulted in safety standards and the inclusion of RTs in legislation to create a new level of care, the adult care home. RTs are included on the list of those who can license and own these new facilities.

What's new for 2012:

This year we are continuing to pursue growth in membership as well as look at avenues to improve patient care. Over the last three years, our membership has doubled, and the goal of 1,000 members is now in sight. Additionally, we hope to announce an accreditation process specific to LTC ventilator units. This project has been underway since 2009 and will be a very important step to assure payers and consumers of quality care.

Why long-term care RTs should join this section:

As you can see from all of our recent accomplishments, section membership is the best way to stay abreast of current trends and to influence change.



**Long-Term Care
Section Chair
Gene Gantt**