



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE  
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Dear Physician Patient Alliance for Health and Safety,

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) would like to express our support and endorsement of your efforts in developing standards of care and facility accreditation for long-term mechanical ventilation in skilled nursing facilities. As the leading professional association for respiratory therapists in the United States, we recognize the importance of ensuring patients receive the highest quality care possible.

As you know, patients requiring long-term ventilation often have complex medical needs and require specialized care. This care must be provided by healthcare professionals who are trained in the management of mechanical ventilation, including respiratory therapists, nurses, and physicians.

Respiratory therapists play a critical role in the care of these patients with respiratory illnesses and conditions. They are responsible for assessing patient lung function, administering oxygen and other respiratory therapies, and monitoring patients for changes in their condition. It is essential that these professionals receive the training and support necessary to provide safe and effective care for their patients.

The AARC is committed to promoting the highest standards of respiratory care and advocating for the needs of patients who require respiratory support. The development of standards of care for long-term ventilation in skilled nursing facilities is a critical step toward improving patient outcomes and ensuring that patients receive high-quality care. Such standards would provide much-needed guidance to healthcare providers and facilities on best practices for managing mechanical ventilation in this population, including appropriate patient selection, ventilation management strategies, and monitoring and assessment protocols.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to patient safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl Hinkson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Carl Hinkson, MS, RRT-NPS, ACCS, FAARC  
President, American Association for Respiratory Care