**QUESTION:** Could your experts please clarify who establishes the settings on a ventilator for a person with a neuromuscular condition?

**ANSWER:** Diana Guth, BA, RRT, Home Respiratory Care, Los Angeles, California, Diana@hrcsleep.com

In the United States, the physician is supposed to write the order for the settings, but there is the option of writing an open-ended order with setting ranges. This is for companies like ours who have knowledgeable RTs who work with the patients to achieve both comfort and effectiveness. We inform the prescribing physician what the settings are after we set them. Some companies will ONLY accept orders with specific settings. This is very problematic for the proper care of the patients. The physicians are only making educated guesses. The patients’ conditions change so the settings need to be adjusted, especially in patients with progressive neuro-muscular disorders such as ALS.

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**CONFERENCE CALENDAR THROUGH DECEMBER 2012**


SEPTEMBER 1-5. European Respiratory Society Annual Congress. Vienna, Austria. www.ersnet.org

OCTOBER 3-5. Fall FOCUS on Respiratory Care, Sleep Medicine, and Critical Care Nursing Conference. Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. www.focusc.com

OCTOBER 15-18. Medtrade: Connecting the HME Industry. Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia. www.medtrade.com

OCTOBER 20-25. CHEST, American College of Chest Physicians Annual Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. www.chestnet.org
