

Code: 4173

Title: RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

SUMMARY: Positions within this professional classification are responsible for planning and providing Respiratory Care therapy in accordance with physician's orders.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Sets up and operates respiratory therapy equipment such as the intermittent position pressure machines, nebulizers, humidifiers, aerosols, gas cylinder, and positive resuscitation bags;
Determines the requirements to administer prescribed treatment, such as type and duration of therapy, medication and dosages;
Determines most suitable method of administering inhalants, precautions to be observed, and modification in treatment necessary to be compatible with physician's orders;
Performs arterial blood gas puncture and blood gas analysis;
Assesses patient pulmonary status and makes therapeutic recommendations to physicians and senior level respiratory care practitioners;
Performs simple spirometry for objective evaluation of patient's ventilatory status;
Evaluates the effectiveness of respiratory therapeutic treatment on each patient;
Operates respiratory life support equipment and evaluates its effectiveness and patient status;
Assists in teaching nursing staff in respiratory therapy procedures;
Performs chest physiotherapy;
Maintains records and reports.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- the procedures, techniques, and equipment used in respiratory therapy;
- the anatomy and physiology of the cardiopulmonary system;
- clinical significance of blood, lab, and radiology and cardiac test results;
- cardio-pulmonary diseases and treatments;
- the principles and practices of respiratory care diagnostics and therapeutics;
- the procedures, techniques and equipment used in assessing patient needs;
- techniques and procedures used in specimen collection and preparation;
- report writing and charting.

Skill in:

- the use of specialized respiratory care equipment;
- assessing the respiratory care needs of patients;
- assisting with invasive procedures such as bronchoscopy, plural biopsy, thoracentesis;
- performing arterial puncture, blood gas analysis and cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- conducting and analyzing the results of a variety of respiratory therapy tests and procedures;
- communicating effectively, both orally and in writing;
- performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- operating and maintaining respiratory therapy equipment;
- performing minor diagnostic tests including electrocardiograms;
- preparing reports and maintaining charts and supporting documentation;
- establishing and maintaining effective working relationships.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

EITHER:

(1) An Associate's degree in Respiratory Therapy from an accredited college or technical school.

OR:

(2) Certification by the National Board for Respiratory Therapy as a Certified Respiratory Technician and

three years of full-time clinical experience in respiratory therapy care under licensed medical supervision.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: Possession of an Arizona State license as a Respiratory Care Practitioner and certification as a Respiratory Care Practitioner by the National Board of Respiratory Care. Failure to maintain required licensure and/or certification shall be grounds for termination.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: Positions within this classification may be required to move and manipulate patients or equipment of various weights and sizes, or stand for extended periods of time.

Special Notice Items: Department of Labor regulation CFR Part 1910.1030 requires notification that this category may have a high risk of exposure to blood-borne pathogens. Hepatitis B vaccine will be provided. Some positions within this classification may require a current Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Clearance Card in order to work with vulnerable adults and children at the time of application. The DPS Clearance Card may be required as a condition of continued employment. In positions requiring a DPS Clearance Card, failure to maintain a current DPS Clearance Card shall be grounds for termination.

This class specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the class and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the class perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.