

*Code: 4175*

*Title: RESPIRATORY THERAPY SUPERVISOR*

**SUMMARY:** Plans, provides and supervises the provision of 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)

Supervises, trains and evaluates personnel in an assigned respiratory therapy section;  
Supervises and performs clinical and pulmonary function studies, therapeutic procedures, arterial blood gas analysis and arterial puncture, and other respiratory therapy functions;  
Assists in the training of respiratory therapists, emergency room and intensive care staff, nursing staff, pediatric and nursery staff and medical staff in the use of respiratory therapeutic equipment and procedures;  
Participates in providing respiratory care and related diagnostic services to patients;  
Consults with physicians and other hospital staff regarding the care and evaluation of cardiopulmonary diseased patients;  
Assists in the development of policies and procedures;  
Supervises and instructs medical personnel performing pulmonary diagnostic procedures;  
At the direction of a physician, administers local anesthetic and prepares instruments for physician's use;  
Operates and maintains blood gas analyzers, pulmonary function recorders, bronchoscopes, and light source equipment;  
Keeps daily maintenance and control records of diagnostic equipment;  
Prepares specimens for laboratory analysis;  
Conducts pre-operative preparatory tests for lung function of surgical patients with spirometer;  
Operates and maintains volume ventilators, volume, flow and oxygen machines, flowmeters, humidifiers, incubators, nebulizers, aerosol units and a variety of respiratory therapy equipment;  
Records and charts negative inspiratory force measurements.

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:**

Knowledge of:

- procedures, techniques, equipment and safety practices used in respiratory therapy;
- principles and practices of respiratory care diagnostics and therapeutics;
- human anatomy, physiology, chemistry and cardio-pulmonary diseases and treatments;
- procedures, techniques and equipment used in assessing patient pulmonary status;
- techniques and procedures used in specimen collection and preparation;
- principles and practices of supervision and training;
- report writing and charting.

Skill in:

- operating and maintaining specialized respiratory therapy equipment;
- assisting with invasive procedures such as bronchoscopy, plural biopsy, thoracentesis;
- performing arterial punctures, blood collection, analysis and interpretation;
- conducting and analyzing the results of a variety of respiratory therapy tests and procedures;
- assessing the respiratory care needs of patients;
- communicating effectively, both verbally and in writing;
- training and supervising others in the techniques and procedures of respiratory care;
- preparing reports and maintaining charts and supporting documentation.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

**EITHER:**

- (1) An associate's degree from an accredited college, university or technical school in respiratory therapy and four years of clinical experience in respiratory therapy under licensed medical supervision, one year of which involved lead responsibility.

(Additional relevant education from an accredited college, university or technical school may be substituted for the aforementioned experience on a one-for-one basis)

OR:

(2) One year of experience with Pima County as a Senior Respiratory Therapist.

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 category 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.

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.

Pima County

Revised 02/18/96  
Updated 05/11/09<sub>(gs)</sub>