

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST II

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Work in this class involves the administration of respiratory therapy in a large teaching hospital or the supervision and administration of a department of respiratory therapy in another state institution. Employees serve as acute care therapists in a teaching hospital or as department heads for a department within another state institution. The employee performs independently at this level providing the physicians with suggestions on the restorative therapy needed and monitoring the progress of critically ill adult and infant patients on controlled ventilators. Employees in a state hospital plan, coordinate, and supervise the hospital's respiratory therapy service and serve as program liaison with physicians. Work is performed under the general supervision of a higher level therapist or physician and is reviewed through periodic conferences and written reports for patient progress and program success.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED

Connects critically ill patients to continuous respirators, establishes ventilatory parameters and adjusts respirator as prescribed by physicians or as indicated by blood gas results.

Answers emergency calls for patients suffering from cardiac or respiratory arrests; assesses patient's status and establishes airway via intubation, ventilates and provides cardiac massage as needed.

Obtains arterial blood samples for acid-base analysis.

Administers breathing treatments such as intermittent positive pressure, incentive spirometry, and aerosol treatments.

Administers inhalant drugs in breathing treatments as prescribed by physicians which include bronchodilators, mucolytic agents, and other medications.

Provides tracheostomy tube and stoma care as needed and changes tube except in the case of fresh tracheostomy.

Administers complete broncho-pulmonary function tests on patients such as Vmax 50%, Vmax 75%, O₂ consumption, and cardiac output by the Fick technique to determine ventilatory impairment; reports results to physician.

Provides ventilatory assistance on transport teams for critically ill patients both within the hospital complex and between hospitals.

Trains technicians and other paramedics in cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology, and respiratory therapy procedures.

Performs related duties as required.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities

Thorough knowledge of respiratory therapy principles, techniques, methods, and their proper application.

Thorough knowledge of the mechanical apparatus used in respiratory therapy and their application.

Thorough knowledge of cardiopulmonary anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pathogenic microbiology.

Thorough knowledge of medications used in the treatment of patients suffering from respiratory distress.

Ability to train and supervise subordinate respiratory therapists and technicians.

Ability to teach respiratory therapy procedures to patients and families.

Ability to gain the confidence and secure the cooperation of patients.

Minimum Education and Experience

Graduation from a two-year program of respiratory therapy and one year of experience as a therapist; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.