

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST I

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Work in this class involves the administration of all respiratory therapy treatments in a state hospital. Employees are responsible for administering respiratory therapy treatments independently in non-acute care areas and under general supervision in acute care areas as prescribed by a physician to patients with respiratory problems. Duties include working with physicians in the evaluation of patients and determination of restorative therapy needed. Employee also administers aerosolized treatments prescribed by a physician, orders supplies, and calibrates equipment. Work is performed under the general supervision of a higher level therapist or physician and is reviewed by observation of work for overall effectiveness of treatments.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED

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

Connects patients to continuous ventilators during emergencies; adjusts gas levels as indicated by blood gas analyses and as directed by the physician; reports results to higher level therapist or physician.

Obtains arterial blood samples for acid-base analysis.

Sets up oxygen and humidity spirometry tests as vital capacity, forced vital capacity, and forced expiratory volume as related to time base.

Assists with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Works with physicians in the evaluation of patients and determination of restorative therapy.

Orders supplies for the Respiratory Therapy Department from outside the hospital.

Instructs medical and paramedical personnel in respiratory therapy techniques and treatments.

Performs related duties as required.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDSKnowledges, Skills, and Abilities

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

Considerable knowledge of the mechanical apparatus used in respiratory therapy.

Considerable knowledge of cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology.

Considerable knowledge of inhalant medications and their side effects.

General knowledge of physics as applied to the operation of mechanical valves, the movement of gases through obstructed and restricted passages, and aerosol behavioral characteristics.

General knowledge of pathogenic microbiology.

Ability to recognize clinical signs of hypoxia and contraindications of gas administration.

Ability to teach basic respiratory therapy procedures to patients and families.

Ability to gain confidence and secure the cooperation of patients.

Minimum Education and Experience

Graduation from a two-year program of respiratory therapy; or graduation from high school and three years of experience in respiratory therapy; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

PREPARED BY
OFFICE OF STATE PERSONNEL

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