



### **Job Description, Respiratory Therapist**

Set up and operate devices such as mechanical ventilators, therapeutic gas administration apparatus, environmental control systems, and aerosol generators, following specified parameters of treatment.

Provide emergency care, including artificial respiration, external cardiac massage and assistance with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Determine requirements for treatment, such as type, method and duration of therapy, precautions to be taken, and medication and dosages, compatible with physicians' orders.

Monitor patient's physiological responses to therapy, such as vital signs, arterial blood gases, and blood chemistry changes, and consult with physician if adverse reactions occur.

Read prescription, measure arterial blood gases, and review patient information to assess patient condition.

Work as part of a team of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals to manage patient care.

Enforce safety rules and ensure careful adherence to physicians' orders.

Maintain charts that contain patients' pertinent identification and therapy information.

Inspect, clean, test and maintain respiratory therapy equipment to ensure equipment is functioning safely and efficiently, ordering repairs when necessary.

Educate patients and their families about their conditions and teach appropriate disease management techniques, such as breathing exercises and the use of medications and respiratory equipment.

Explain treatment procedures to patients to gain cooperation and allay fears.

Relay blood analysis results to a physician.

Perform pulmonary function and adjust equipment to obtain optimum results in therapy.

Perform bronchopulmonary drainage and assist or instruct patients in performance of breathing exercises.

Demonstrate respiratory care procedures to trainees and other health care personnel.

Teach, train, supervise, and utilize the assistance of students, respiratory therapy technicians, and assistants.

Use a variety of testing techniques to assist doctors in cardiac and pulmonary research and to diagnose disorders.

Make emergency visits to resolve equipment problems.

Conduct tests, such as electrocardiograms, stress testing, and lung capacity tests, to evaluate patients' cardiopulmonary functions.

*Please sign and date to confirm you have read and understand job description above:*

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*Signature*

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*Date*