

CLASS TITLE: RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Class Code: 02151500

Pay Grade: 22A

EO: B

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To administer respiratory care including specialized diagnostic respiratory procedures to hospitalized patients as prescribed by a physician; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general supervision of a superior or receives general instructions from a physician regarding type of treatment to be administered; is individually responsible for administering routine treatment and specialized diagnostic procedures as prescribed by a physician and exercises independent judgement regarding the methods and techniques used in connection with prescribed treatment care; work may be reviewed while in process or immediately upon completion for conformance to predetermined instructions and procedures, as well as results obtained.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: As required, may supervise subordinates engaged in performing respiratory treatment or respiratory related activities.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To administer respiratory therapy care, including specialized diagnostic respiratory procedures to hospitalized patients as prescribed by a physician.

To deliver various types of respiratory treatment involving aerosol, suction and oxygen to improve respiratory status.

To perform specialized diagnostic procedures as directed by hospital policy including pulmonary function testing and drawing arterial blood for analysis as prescribed by a physician and to evaluate results of such procedures.

To perform endotracheal intubation and esophageal airway tube insertion as directed by hospital policy.

To set up, operate, inspect and test devices such as pulmonary function equipment, mechanical ventilators, therapeutic gas administration equipment, tents, as well as other types of respiratory therapy equipment and apparatus.

To observe equipment gauges to ensure specified volumes, pressures and concentrations are maintained.

To administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

To explain to patients the treatment and/or procedures and provide instruction to them as to breathing techniques or rehabilitative breathing procedures.

To monitor the patient's physiological responses to respiratory therapy and consult with a physician in the event of any adverse reactions.

To maintain patient records that contain information such as: patient condition, treatment and medication administered, vital signs, breathing patterns and sounds, tolerance of treatment, and other pertinent data.

To administer chest physiotherapy and bronchopulmonary drainage.

To perform endotracheal suction.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES: A thorough knowledge of the principles, techniques and equipment used in the application of respiratory care; the ability to apply such knowledges in administering respiratory care to patients; the ability to administer specialized diagnostic procedures and the ability to operate required equipment therefore; the ability to read and note physicians' prescriptions for individual patients and determine the requirements for treatment, including the type and duration of therapy and the medication and dosages ordered; the ability to instruct and explain breathing procedures to patients; the ability to maintain patient records; as required, the ability to supervise subordinates in performing respiratory care and other respiratory related activities; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Such as may have been gained through: graduation from a high school supplemented by completion of an approved program or course of respiratory therapy.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: At the time of appointment must be licensed as a respiratory therapist by the State of Rhode Island and must maintain such licensure as a condition of employment.

Class Revised: October 7, 1990

Editorial Review: 3/15/03