

**CLASS TITLE: SENIOR RESPIRATORY THERAPIST**

**Class Code: 02151700**  
**Pay Grade: 26A**  
**EO: B**

**CLASS DEFINITION:**

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES:** To administer respiratory care and life support to patients that present the most acute problems with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system; and to related work as required.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED:** Works under the general supervision of a superior or may receive advice or general direction from a physician; is individually responsible for administering respiratory therapy treatment along with specialized diagnostic respiratory procedures and exercises wide latitude in carrying out such prescribed treatment and procedures; work may be subject to review while in process and is usually reviewed upon completion for conformance to directions and appropriate standards.

**SUPERVISION EXERCISED:** Instructs, trains, supervises and reviews the work activities of an assigned respiratory staff and others assigned to assist.

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:**

To administer respiratory care and life support to patients that present the most acute problems with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system.

As assigned, to assume the responsibility of the unit in the absence of the chief therapist.

To supervise the work activities of a subordinate respiratory staff engaged in administering various respiratory procedures for the care of hospitalized patients as required.

To perform specialized diagnostic procedures as directed by hospital policy including endotracheal suctioning, endotracheal intubation, pulmonary function testing and drawing arterial blood for analysis as prescribed by a physician and evaluating results of tests.

To be responsible for the operation, inspection, testing and maintenance of various types of respiratory equipment, including ventilators, therapeutic gas administration apparatus, environmental control systems, aerosol generators, as well as a variety of other specialized oxygen and therapeutic respiratory devices.

To observe and monitor equipment gauges to verify specified volumes, pressures and concentrations are maintained and ensure proper operation.

To be responsible for the orientation of new and existing personnel, including the demonstration of respiratory care procedures and equipment.

To monitor and review patient's physiological responses to respiratory therapy and to notify personnel of any complex adverse reactions.

To administer bronchopulmonary drainage and chest physiotherapy.

To provide instruction to patients regarding breathing exercises, coughing techniques and rehabilitative breathing procedures and to monitor such activities noting the progress made or difficulties the patient may be experiencing.

To maintain patient records involving the type of treatment administered, the time given, patient reaction to such treatment, as well as other pertinent information.

To do related work as required.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:**

**KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES:** A thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, methods, equipment and techniques used in respiratory care; the ability to apply the aforementioned knowledge in administering respiratory care to patients; the ability to interpret laboratory data, as well as physicians' prescriptions for individual patient care, and to determine the requirements for treatment, including the type and duration of therapy and the medication and dosages ordered; the ability to accurately maintain patient records; the ability to administer specialized diagnostic procedures and operate the necessary equipment; the ability to train and supervise respiratory personnel engaged in providing respiratory care; 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 of respiratory therapy; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: employment as a respiratory therapist in a private or public hospital or institution.

**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

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