



UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD812

JOB TITLE:	Respiratory Therapist	JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:	60196/P.VI.65100.003
CLASSIFICATION:	Respiratory Therapist P1	GRID/PAY LEVEL:	H-E-P1
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT:	Health Science Professionals	HSCIS NO.:	65101
UNION:	HSA	JOB/CLASS CODE:	65101
PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:	Pharmacy, Diagnostic & Surgical Services; Respiratory Therapy	BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):	
REPORTING TO:	Supervisor, Respiratory Therapy		
FACILITY/SITE:	Various VIHA SI Sites, CRH, CVH		

JOB SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Vision, Purpose, and Values, and strategic direction of the Vancouver Island Health Authority, patient safety is a priority and a responsibility shared by everyone at VIHA; as such, the requirement to continuously improve quality and safety is inherent in all aspects of this position.

Reporting to the appropriate site Supervisor, Respiratory Therapy. Provides diagnostic data, administers respiratory therapy, formulates and charts care plans according to established procedures to ensure safe and appropriate application of a variety of respiratory equipment and procedures in areas such as adult, paediatric, and neonatal intensive care units, cardiovascular unit, respiratory rehabilitation programs and related clinics, emergency room and medical-surgical nursing units. Demonstrates respiratory care procedures and the operation of related equipment to patients and other members of the hospital staff.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Compiles diagnostic data by sampling arterial blood from indwelling catheters and by puncture, analyzes sample for pH and blood gases, performs pulmonary function tests, end tidal CO₂ monitoring, pulse oximetry, transcutaneous monitoring, and samples from a bronchoscope as ordered by the physician. Titrates oxygen therapy as per pulseoximetry protocols.
2. Applies knowledge of cardio-respiratory anatomy and physiology to choice, application and regulation of all types of respiratory equipment for adult, paediatric and neonatal patients.
3. Evaluates performance of respiratory diagnostic, monitoring and life support systems on a regular basis and takes corrective action as required.
4. Monitors respiratory function of designated patients. Charts observations according to hospital/departmental policies and procedures. Formulates and charts respiratory care plans as needed.
5. Counsels patients and/or family members on patient's condition and how to cope with limitations imposed on their lifestyle.
6. Administers inhalational drugs according to physicians' orders, closely observes patients for side effects and assesses efficacy of therapy in written interprofessional communications.
7. Responds to all cardio-respiratory arrest and multiple trauma calls, participates with ventilation, airway management, external cardiac massage, sampling and analysis of arterial blood for pH and blood gases, and patient transport.

8. Assists the physician with the insertion of artificial airways. Monitors artificial airway to ensure patency, security and seal of airway and, as requested by the physician, removes or replaces these airways.
9. Assists patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or permanent tracheostomy by demonstrating methods of operation of specific devices and teaches self-care as appropriate.
10. Demonstrates and orients respiratory therapy procedures such as medical gas therapy, aerosol drug therapy, airway management, mechanical ventilation and tracheostomy tube care to respiratory therapy students, medical and Health Science Professional staff as requested.
11. Provides appropriate supervision to respiratory therapy students and new staff in all clinical areas based upon their knowledge and skill level. Demonstrates and explains procedures commonly performed in each clinical area. Complete student evaluation forms at the end of each clinical rotation.
12. Maintains workload statistics.
13. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Graduation from a recognized program in Respiratory Therapy. Eligible for registered membership with the British Columbia Society of Respiratory Therapists (BCSRT).

Skills And Abilities

- Ability to deal effectively with a variety of internal and external contacts including patients, physicians and the public.
- Ability to operate respiratory therapy equipment and perform respiratory therapy procedures.
- Physical ability to carry out the duties of the position.
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to demonstrate respiratory methods and the operation of related equipment to patients and members of hospital staff.