UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD813

JOB TITLE:	Respiratory Therapist-Home Oxygen Program	**JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:**	60171
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:	Medicine	**BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):**	
REPORTING TO:	Program Manager or Designate		
FACILITY/SITE:	Various VIHA SI Sites		

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 Program Manager or designate, administers respiratory therapy and provides clinical education, diagnostic data and case management for patients and clients referred to the Home Oxygen Program. Implements approved quality assurance policies and procedures.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Provides training and clinical expertise for Home Oxygen Program patients/clients in regards to disease management - proper use of equipment (i.e. ventilators, CPAP/Bi-PAP, oxygen delivery, spacers, MDI's, nebulizers); proper prescription usage (i.e. oxygen flow and inhaled meds); breathing exercises, prevention of exacerbations, smoking cessation, preventative health measures etc.

2. Assesses patient/client needs and insures physicians' orders are properly administered in the home; conducts home visits as required. Develops individualized patient care plans; assesses the patient's/client's willingness and ability to participate in the care plan; monitors the caseload and establishes priorities; maintains program records of treatment plans and progress; sends appropriate documentation to the Physician.

3. Consults with the Home Oxygen Program's medical advisors on the patient's/client's need for Home Oxygen Therapy and/or other modes of Respiratory Care and treatment. Conducts client follow-up visits and performs diagnostic tests.

4. Assesses and recommends the therapy modes and delivery systems that best meet the patient's/client's medical condition, lifestyle needs; taking into consideration the cost implications to the Home Oxygen Program.

5. Provides training and in-service programs to multidisciplinary staff and students who provide direct care to patients/clients. Provides training and education to other VIHA staff as requested.

6. Acts as HOP resource and liaison with community groups, vendors, government programs such as: Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), Veterans' Affairs Canada (VAC), etc.

7. Assists all care givers in the provision of care to HOP patients/clients; assesses patient/client learning needs; interprets treatment recommendations; participates in case conferences, acting as a resource for physicians, health care professionals, and the community in matters relating to the care of patients/clients requiring Home Oxygen or Respiratory Care in the home; provides educational sessions for VIHA staff and physicians as required.

8. Participates in and provides input into the development of policies and procedures for the Home Oxygen Program; makes recommendations for improvements to patient/client care.

9. Implements approved Home Oxygen Program quality assurance policies and protocols; communicates quality assurance policies and protocols to VIHA staff and updates manuals as required; maintains records of quality assurance activities and provides reports to the Program Manager as required.

10. Tests diagnostic and other related equipment and arranges for maintenance of equipment as required.

11. Collects and maintains workload and statistical information; collates data, uses outcome measurement techniques; generates reports for the Program Manager as required.

12. Monitors and researches trends and developments in Home Oxygen administration and Respiratory Care, and maintains related information files. Attends educational programs and workshops.

13. Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Graduation from an approved Respiratory Therapy program and registered with the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists and the British Columbia Society of Respiratory Therapists. Completion of a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Educators Program or postgraduate coursework in asthma care from a recognized educational facility (Certified Asthma Educator) plus successful completion of courses in Adult Education. Two years recent related experience including experience in adult instruction, working with students or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Skills And Abilities

- Ability to conduct quality assurance tests and related activities.
- Ability to organize workload and establish priorities.
- Ability to teach.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships.
- Ability to operate related equipment.
- Physical ability to carry out the duties of the position, position requires frequent and prolonged time in a vehicle.
- Must have a valid BC drivers licence and access to an automobile.
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.