

Respiratory Therapy Essential Functions & Expectations

The Essential Functions for the Respiratory Therapy Division are the skills and competencies required of a respiratory therapist student who is expected to:

- Assess patients' need for respiratory therapy by interviewing patients, performing limited physical examinations, reviewing existing clinical data and recommending the collection of additional pertinent data;
- Perform cardiopulmonary diagnostic procedures, calculate test results, determine reliability, perform quality control, and evaluate implications of test results;
- Evaluate all clinical data to determine the appropriateness of the prescribed respiratory care, to participate in the development of the respiratory care plan, and to provide care using clinical patient care protocols;
- Select, assemble, and check for proper function, operation, and cleanliness of all equipment used in providing respiratory care;
- Be responsible for the transportation, set-up, calibration, maintenance, and quality assurance of respiratory care and pulmonary function testing equipment;
- Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures, evaluate treatment efficacy, and modify prescribed therapeutic procedures to achieve one or more specific objectives in acute care, intensive care & life support, continuing care, and rehabilitation settings.
- Act as an assistant to the physician with special procedures such as bronchoscopy, invasive cardiovascular monitoring, insertion of chest tubes, etc.
- Demonstrate professional attributes of a member of the health care team including appropriate levels of confidence, cooperation, empathy, independence, initiative, judgment, maturity, organizational skills, ethics, and dependability;
- Respect and obey all pertinent laws and regulations and abide by the Code of Ethics;
- Maintain confidentiality and accuracy of patient records and communicate relevant information to other members of the health care team;
- Project a professional and healthful image, including: appearance, courtesy, respect, self-control, honesty, punctuality, and responsibility.