

# **Respiratory Care Services John Dempsey Hospital Policy and Procedure Manual**

## **Subject: Role of Float Assignment Therapist**

The principal role of the Float Assignment Therapist is to function work closely in providing respiratory care services initially in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit throughout the hospital or as necessitated by daily patient workload. The Float Therapist will be accountable for working with the Lead Respiratory Therapist and/or coworkers to obtain direction and communication as to what areas require the assistance of the Float Therapist to ensure the safe, timely, effective, and efficient levels of patient care, respiratory services, and respiratory functions within JDH. The Float Therapist may experience reassignments of patient caseloads or duty assignments during the course of the shift as situations warrant.

The Float Therapist will be required to perform the job description as defined for the Respiratory Therapist as well as be able to functionally perform the role of other specific assignments. (NICU, ICU, Floor).

The Float Therapist will be responsible for providing assistance in the performance of patient assessments and documentation associated with the established Conversion from Small Volume Nebulizer to MDI Protocol. As a member of the Rapid Response Team, the respiratory therapist will provide a clinical respiratory assessment of the patient and make appropriate respiratory interventional recommendations as the patients condition warrants.

The Float Therapist will check the floors, PACU, ED, and ICU for the appropriate par levels of grab N go tanks. Empties and extra tanks will be gathered and returned to the respiratory department. The Float Therapist will assist in the cleaning, assembly and SST/EST/Pre-use calibration of ventilators.

The Float Therapist will assist in relieving other therapists for breaks and/or lunch periods to provide for a continuum of respiratory care services. There will be communication amongst the Lead Respiratory Therapist and coworkers to determine what assistance/or respiratory support will be needed (surgeries, deliveries, special procedures, neonatal transports) for which the Float Therapist may readily provide.

The Float Therapist is responsible for adhering to hospital and departmental policies/procedures/protocols. The Float Therapist will participate in the gathering of quality improvement data as requested.

Effective: 9/05