

Respiratory Care Services

John Dempsey Hospital

Policy and Procedure Manual

Subject: Role of the Respiratory Therapist

The role of the Respiratory Therapist will require the performance of those duties associated with the class title of Respiratory Therapist and the ability to work therapeutically with patients.

The respiratory therapist will be responsible for the administration of all types of mechanical ventilation including BiPap, CPAP, High Frequency Oscillatory ventilation, IPPB as well as various types of aerosolized medication therapies including continuous nebulization and Pentamidine therapy. The Respiratory Therapist will perform sputum induction/collection and be responsible for the delivery of respiratory services to patients, including all types of chest physical therapy/postural drainage (manual and mechanical percussion); arterial blood gas punctures as requested; management of artificial airways; suctioning of airways, mechanical ventilation management; participation in resuscitative efforts; assist in intubations. The respiratory therapist is responsible for properly implementing those respiratory procedures and monitoring activities associated with the ICU Open Heart Protocol as well as the Administration of Nitric Oxide (NO) in the Cardiac Catheterization Unit Protocol as required. The respiratory therapist will be responsible for the appropriate recording of respiratory services provided to patients. Responsible for the accurate and complete documentation of all patient charges (treatments, equipment, and oxygen usage). Perform ABG sample analysis, transmittal of results, and billing information utilizing designated computer software programs. The respiratory therapist will be responsible for the appropriate assembly, cleaning/sterilizing and processing of respiratory equipment and devices as well as minor maintenance.

The respiratory therapist will be responsible for the performance of patient assessments, therapeutic modalities, and documentation associated with departmentally established protocols (e.g. 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 patient's condition warrants.

The respiratory therapist will provide cardiopulmonary instruction/education to patients, patient's family and /or caregivers as needed in the areas of basic education in disease/illness processes, interventional techniques, and/or treatment modalities designed for disease management. The respiratory therapist will be called upon as needed to provide respiratory in-service training to nursing personnel.

The respiratory therapist, when assigned or directed by the Lead Respiratory Therapist or Clinical Manager will be responsible for the orientation and precepting of new employees. The respiratory therapist may also lead lower level employees at the request of either the Lead Respiratory Therapist or Clinical Manager.

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

Respiratory therapist will perform supportive activities such as inventory and stocking of respiratory supplies as needed for the respiratory department as well as designated units.

As a respiratory therapist at UConn Health Center, one's duties and responsibilities will require one to participate in providing those respiratory services deemed necessary as a member of the Neonatal Transport Team. Additionally, in accordance with established department and hospital policy and procedures, a respiratory therapist will be required to function in the capacity of the designated on-call therapist in the event of a Neonatal Transport.

Effective: 9/05