

## Technical Standards for Respiratory Therapy

### General Job Description

- Utilizes the application of scientific principles for the identification, prevention, remediation, research, and rehabilitation of acute or chronic cardiopulmonary dysfunction thereby producing optimum health and function.
- Reviews existing data, collects additional data, and recommends obtaining data to evaluate the respiratory status of patients, develop the respiratory care plan, and determine the appropriateness of the prescribed therapy.
- Initiates, conducts, and modifies prescribed therapeutic and diagnostic procedures such as: administering medical gases, humidification and aerosols, aerosol medications, postural drainage, bronchopulmonary hygiene, cardiopulmonary airways; performing pulmonary function testing, hemodynamic monitoring and other physiologic monitoring; collecting specimens of blood and other materials.
- Documents necessary information in the patient's medical record and other forms, and communicates that information to members of the health care team. Obtains, assembles, calibrates, and checks necessary equipment.
- Uses problem solving to identify and correct malfunctions of respiratory care equipment. Use problem solving to identify and correct malfunctions of respiratory care equipment. Demonstrates appropriate interpersonal skill to work productively with patients, families, staff and co-workers.
- Accepts directives, maintains confidentiality, does not discriminate, and upholds the ethical standards of the profession.

Physical Standards		Frequency
LIFT:	up to 50 pounds to assist moving patients	F
STOOP:	to adjust equipment	F
KNEEL:	to perform CPR	O
CROUCH:	to locate and plug in electrical equipment	F
REACH:	5 1/2" above the floor to attach oxygen devices to wall outlet.	C
HANDLE:	small and large equipment for storing, retrieving, moving.	C
GRASP:	syringes, laryngoscope, endotracheal tubes.	C
STAND:	for prolonged periods of time (e.g., delivery therapy, check equipment)	C
FEEL:	to palpate pulses, arteries for puncture, skin temperature.	C
PUSH/PULL:	large, wheeled equipment (e.g., mechanical ventilators)	C
WALK:	for extended periods of time to all areas of a hospital.	C
MANIPULATE:	knobs, dials associated with diagnostic/therapeutic devices.	C
HEAR:	verbal directions	C
HEAR:	gas flow through equipment	C
	alarms	C
	through a stethoscope such as breath or heart sounds	C
SEE:	patient conditions such as skin color, work of breathing	C
	mist flowing through tubing	F

Frequency      O = occasionally (1-33%)      F = frequently (33-66%)  
 Legend          C = constantly (67-100%)

## Current Respiratory Therapy Technical Standards – July, 1998

(Technical Standards (page 1) is under consideration for adoption August, 1998)

- SIGHT** Sufficient eyesight to observe patients, manipulate equipment and accessories, visually monitor patients in dimmed light, and evaluate radiographs and other digital images.
- HEARING** Sufficient hearing to communicate with patients and other members of the health care team, monitor patients via audio monitors, and hear background sounds during equipment operations.
- SPEECH** Satisfactory verbal, reading, and written skills to effectively and promptly communicate in technical and conversational English.
- DEXTERITY** Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination to manipulate equipment and accessories, lift a minimum of 35 pounds, and to stoop, bend or promptly assist patients who become unstable.
- STRENGTH** Satisfactory physical strength and endurance to move immobile patients to or from a stretcher or wheelchair to the bed or examination table, work with arms extended overhead, stand in place for long periods of time, and carry 20-25 pounds while walking.
- STABILITY** Satisfactory intellectual and emotional functions to ensure patient safety and exercise independent judgment and discretion in the performance of assigned responsibilities. Ability to respond appropriately in emergency and high stress patient care situations.