

Class Concept

Work in this class involves the administration of all respiratory therapy treatments in a state institution or hospital. Employees are responsible for administering respiratory therapy treatments independently in non-acute care areas and under general supervision in acute care areas as prescribed by a physician to patients with respiratory problems. Duties include working with physicians in the evaluation of patients and determination of restorative therapy needed. Employee also administers aerosolized treatments prescribed by a physician, orders supplies, and calibrates equipment. Work is performed under the general supervision of a respiratory therapy supervisor or a physician and is reviewed by observation of work for overall effectiveness of treatments.

Recruitment Standards

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Considerable knowledge of respiratory therapy principles, techniques, methods, and their proper application.
- Considerable knowledge of the mechanical apparatus used in respiratory therapy.
- Considerable knowledge of cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology.
- Considerable knowledge of inhalant medications and their side effects.
- General knowledge of physics as applied to the operation of mechanical valves, the movement of gases through obstructed and restricted passages, and aerosol behavioral characteristics.
- General knowledge of pathogenic microbiology.
- Ability to recognize clinical signs of hypoxia and contraindications of gas administration.
- Ability to teach basic respiratory therapy procedures to patients and families.
- Ability to gain confidence and secure the cooperation of patients.

Minimum Education and Experience

Licensed as a Respiratory Therapist in the state of North Carolina.