



Career Service Authority

Respiratory Therapist

Page 1 of 5

GENERAL STATEMENT OF CLASS DUTIES

Provides respiratory care to patients with deficiencies in their cardiopulmonary systems in order to correct or rehabilitate deficiencies which may include performing assistance in critical care treatments.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This classification is located at Denver Health Medical Center and is being maintained for promotional purposes.

This class provides respiratory care to patients with deficiencies in their cardiopulmonary systems, which may include performing assistance in critical care treatments; and is distinguished from the class of Respiratory Therapy Technician which also provides respiratory care to patients at Denver Health Medical Center with deficiencies in their cardiopulmonary systems, but is not involved in rehabilitation or critical care treatments.

Guidelines, Difficulty and Decision Making Level:

Guidelines are generally numerous, well established, and directly applicable to the work assignment. Work assignment and desired results are explained by general oral or written instructions.

Duties assigned are generally repetitive and restricted in scope but may be of substantial intricacy. Employee primarily applies standardized practices.

Decisions or recommendations on non-standardized situations are limited to relating organizational policies to specific cases. Problems that are not covered by guidelines or are without precedent are taken up with the supervisor.

Level of Supervision Received and Quality Review:

Under normal supervision, within a standardized work situation, the employee performs duties common to the line of work without close supervision or detailed instruction. Work product is subject to continual review.

Interpersonal Communications and Purpose:

Contacts with the public or employees where factual information relative to the organization or its functions are received, relayed, or a service rendered according to established procedures or instructions.

Level of Supervision Exercised:

None.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Performs respiratory care for patients with deficiencies in their cardiopulmonary systems such as maintaining airway patency, providing hand held nebulization treatments, drawing arterial blood gas and other respiratory procedures.

Provides and analyzes oxygen therapy and monitors patient progress.

Performs airway management which involves evaluating airway for adequacy of airflow, suctioning, retaping, and changing tracheostomies. Advises, instructs and assists medical personnel in specialized procedures.

Runs calibration samples on blood gas measuring equipment and other equipment testing.

Assists other medical personnel in responding to cardiac and/or respiratory arrest. Provides input on patient care.

Orders drugs and confirms receipt by entering data into computer.

Assists in weaning procedures of long term ventilator patients by instructing and counseling patients and families.

Sets up and maintains ventilation support system including taking blood gases, determining oxygen level and performing ear oximetry.

Enhances professional growth and development through participation in educational programs, receiving current literature, attending in service meeting and workshops.

Maintains established departmental policies and procedures, quality improvement, safety, environmental and infection control standards.

Performs other related duties as assigned or requested.

Any one position may not include all of the duties listed. However, the allocation of positions will be determined by the amount of time spent in performing the essential duties listed above.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Competencies, Knowledge, & Skills:

Integrity/Honesty - Displays high standards of ethical conduct, understands the impact of violating these standards on an organization, self, and others, chooses an ethical course of action, and is trustworthy.

Conscientiousness - Displays a high level of effort and commitment towards performing work and demonstrates responsible behavior.

Interpersonal Skills – Shows understanding, courtesy, tact, empathy, and concern, develops and maintains relationships, may deal with people who are difficult, hostile, and/or distressed, relates well to people from varied backgrounds and situations, and is sensitive to individual differences.

Oral Communication – Communicates or explains ideas and/or information clearly. Thoughts are well organized and recognizes potential miscommunications.

Problem Solving – Identifies problems, determines accuracy and relevance information, and uses sound judgment to generate and evaluate alternatives and to make recommendations.

Reading - Learns from written material by determining the main idea or essential message and recognizes correct English grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Listening - Receives, attends to, interprets, and responds to verbal messages and other cues such as body language in ways that are appropriate to listeners and situations.

Writing - Uses correct English grammar, punctuation, and spelling to communicate thoughts, ideas, information, and messages in writing.

Flexibility - Adapts quickly to changes.

Speaking - Uses correct English grammar to organize and communicate ideas in words that are appropriate to listeners and situations and uses appropriate body language.

Memory - Recalls information that has been presented previously.

Diversity – Is sensitive to cultural diversity, race, gender, and other individual differences in the workforce.

Customer Service – Works and communicates with clients and customers to satisfy their expectations and committed to quality services.

Self Management - Sets well-defined and realistic personal goals, monitors progress and is motivated to achieve, manages own time, and deals with stress effectively.

Knowledge of the theory and practice of respiratory therapy sufficient to be able to perform patient assessments including skin color evaluations, measurement of respiratory rate, and some auscultation of breathing sounds.

Physical Demands (Physical Demands are a general guide and specific positions will vary based on working conditions, locations, and agency/department needs):

Fingering: Picking, pinching or otherwise working with fingers.

Handling: Seizing, holding, grasping or otherwise working with hand(s).

Hearing: Perceiving the nature of sounds by the ear.

Standing: Remaining on one's feet in an upright position.

Talking: Expressing or exchanging ideas by means of spoken words.

Walking: Moving about on foot on uneven surfaces.

Lifting: Raising or lowering an object up to 10 pounds.

Working Environment:

Contact with patients under wide variety of circumstances
Exposed to hazardous anesthetic agents, body fluids and wastes
Exposed to infection from disease-bearing specimens
Exposed to infections and contagious disease
Exposed to patient elements
Exposed to risk of blood borne diseases
Exposed to unpleasant elements (accidents, injuries and illness)
Handles to emergency or crisis situations
May be exposed to infections and contagious diseases
May perform emergency care
Occasional exposure to unpleasant patient or unit elements
Occasionally exposed to radiation hazards
Occasionally subjected to irregular hours
Regularly exposed to the risk of blood borne disease
Requires judgment/ action which could result in death of patient
Subject to cuts from microtome knives
Subject to electrical and radiant energy hazards
Subject to hazards of flammable, explosive gases
Subject to long irregular hours
Subject to many interruptions
Subject to varying and unpredictable situations

Education Requirement:

Completion of an American Medical Association approved Respiratory Program for certification.

Experience Requirement:

None.

Education/Experience Equivalency:

None.

Licensure and/or Certification:

Certification as a Respiratory Therapist at the time of application as determined by the National Board for Respiratory Care.

CLASS DETAIL

FLSA CODE: Non-Exempt

ESTABLISHED DATE: 09/16/1995

ESTABLISHED BY: Jean Canfield

REVISED DATE: 10/25/209

REVISED BY: Tony Gautier

CLASS HISTORY 10/2009-Spec placed into current format; competency and distinguishing characteristic statements added.