

DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Technical Standards

Job Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of a physician:

- Administer all forms of respiratory therapy treatment modalities
- Maintain mechanical ventilator support systems and apply appropriate weaning techniques
- Perform arterial blood gas sample acquisition, analysis and interpretation of results
- Calibrate monitoring and diagnostic equipment
- Perform routine airway care
- Perform patient assessments and develop care plans
- Make rational clinical decisions based on patient responses
- Communicate effectively with other health care personnel
- Monitor, set up and maintain oxygen delivery systems
- Interpret results of other diagnostic data: chest x-rays, labs, ECG, etc
- Perform ventilation and cardiac compressions during CPR
- Maintain departmental and patient records, accurately document all treatments, procedures, and related patient assessments
- Recognize indications and contraindications of all therapeutic modalities, Respiratory medications, and diagnostic procedures
- Make recommendations of appropriate therapy as indicated
- Aid in safe transportation of patient and equipment
- Provides instruction to patients, family members about therapy and equipment used
- Rehabilitation of the patient with chronic respiratory disease
- Assists with both diagnostic and therapeutic bronchoscopy
- Performs quality control and basic maintenance of diagnostic equipment

Physical Requirements

- Be able to work long periods while standing; bend, squat, reach above shoulders, twist, turn and kneel.
- Move large equipment on rollers, push, pull 50lbs.
- Turn and lift patients of varying weights
- Use stairs to report to emergencies rapidly
- Hear alarms and direct verbal communication in patient care areas which often have high noise level
- See alarms, dials, digital and graphical displays in occasional decreased lighting
- Communicate the English language clearly to other personnel and patients
- Manual dexterity and mobility

Continued on Reverse

Work Environment/Hours

- 8 to 12 hour shifts occurring during the day, evening, night, weekends and holidays
- One 30 minute lunch/dinner break
- One or two 15 minute breaks, depending on the shift
- Typically, a full time equivalent CRT/RRT will work 2080 hours/year and receive the benefits granted by the employing institution, which usually include: vacation time, sick leave, and health insurance.

Work Hazards

- Back injuries from lifting and moving patient/equipment
- Exposure to a wide range of air borne and blood and body fluid borne pathogens