

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The LICENSED RESPIRATORY CARE TECHNICIAN assists in the care of patients with pulmonary disorders by providing respiratory therapy treatments based on physicians' orders and therapy programs developed by respiratory care supervisor.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes. This classification is differentiated from the Respiratory Care Practitioner classification (6525) by the types and range of procedures administered and the limited responsibility for patient assessment and care plans. Employees performing respiratory therapy in this class do not perform continuous ventilation or blood gas analysis or conduct invasive techniques such as entering patient's lungs or trachea (other than with a suction catheter). Employees in this class also do not conduct initial assessment of patient, interpret results of patient pulmonary function screening, or develop program of respiratory care for patients.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties listed below are not inclusive but characteristic of the type and level of work associated with this class. Individual positions may perform all or some combination of the duties listed below as well as other related duties.

1.Treatments

Perform therapeutic functions such as chest physiotherapy and tracheobronchial aspirations to prevent complications and improve lung functions in patients with acute and chronic pulmonary problems. Using a variety of techniques and equipment, administer oxygen, aerosolized medications, and humidification. Assist patients in deep breathing exercises.

2.Patient Monitoring/Assessment

Listen to chest sounds with stethoscope, time breathing rate and rhythm, measure air capacity of lungs, and assess patient's general appearance. Inform supervisor, physician, or nurse of any changes in the patient's condition. Use transcutaneous oxygen monitor to measure exchange of carbon and oxygen in blood with results interpreted by therapist or supervisor.

3.Charting

Record on patient's chart the type of therapy provided and findings from patient assessment. Record on department's permanent record the number and type of therapies administered.

4.Miscellaneous

Check equipment for proper operation and clean equipment on a regular basis. Serve as part of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) code team which responds to cardiac emergencies. Keep record of supplies and notify supervisor when supplies need to be reordered.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees in this class have daily in-person contact with patients having pulmonary disorders to provide respiratory therapy. Employees in this class also have regular in-person contact with doctors and nurses to notify them regarding changes in patients' condition or to get clarification on treatment orders.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Employees in this class work under the general supervision of a Respiratory Therapy Supervisor who assigns work based on orders for respiratory therapy received from a doctor. Work is reviewed by daily interaction with employee to monitor quality of patient care being provided and to assure that therapy activities are being performed in conformance with department standards. Guidelines are available in the form of State and Federal laws and departmental policies and procedures. These guidelines are used in providing respiratory therapy treatments to patients.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Positions in this class are primarily found in hospitals, clinics, or other health care facilities. They require the willingness to work in the environment associated with the position's location and purpose. In addition, they require the willingness to maintain a sympathetic and understanding attitude towards mentally ill, mentally retarded, handicapped, and physically ill patients. Some positions require the willingness to work overtime, on-call, and/or rotating schedules.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (KS)

Basic knowledge of life sciences and physical sciences.

Basic knowledge of mathematics (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and percentages).

Basic knowledge of the physical properties of gases.

Basic knowledge of the common procedures and techniques of respiratory therapy.

Basic knowledge of respiratory therapy medications and their general effects on the respiratory system.

Basic knowledge of operation and assembly of respiratory therapy equipment.

Basic knowledge of patients' responses to specific therapy treatments.

Skill in communicating orally and in writing.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATION

Employees in this class must have a valid Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner's License (LRCP).

NOTE: The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KS's. No attempt is made to describe every KS required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KS requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 7/90

Revised 5/94