

DESCRIPTION: Under general supervision, is responsible for respiratory care and treatment which includes performing assessments and treatments, and providing care for patients with respiratory difficulties and/or breathing disorders or illness; initiates and conducts therapeutic procedures, maintains client records, selects, assembles, checks and operates equipment; performs related work as assigned.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Develops care plans through the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) process determined by a patient's individual problems and desired goals from the treatment; maintains communication with IDT on progress.

Performs respiratory diagnostic work such as analyzing sputum and breath specimens, determining oxygen levels, carbon dioxide levels and other blood gasses. Measures lung capacity, studies sleep patterns, provides chest physiotherapy and inhalation therapy. Conducts and assists with respiratory rehabilitative activities such as breathing exercises and the use of medications and respiratory equipment.

Administers specialized therapeutic respiratory treatments such as physiotherapy and inhalation therapy as prescribed by medical team. Administers medications in aerosol form to help alleviate breathing difficulties as needed and maintain/tract equipments needed for aerosol treatments and administration of oxygen to assist with breathing. Monitor patient's physiological response to medications and therapy, maintain charts and make entries on medical records as necessary.

Performs suctioning procedures for individuals with tracheotomy tubes, performs postural drainage with percussion.

Takes immediate steps to alleviate adverse conditions that an individual may experience during treatment, notifying medical staff in extreme cases.

May serve as lead worker Respiratory Staff Technicians; may also train in the use of therapy treatment and equipment.

May educate patients and their families about current condition and appropriate management techniques as well as respiratory equipment operation.

Studies disruptive sleep patterns that result from respiratory problems.

Administers allergy skin tests, and interprets the testing response.

Maintains, inspects, cleans, and tests respiratory equipment as needed to ensure equipment is functioning properly and effectively.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These are needed at entry level to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: respiratory therapy treatments, techniques and practices; signs and symptoms of respiratory complications; and operation and maintenance of respiratory therapy equipment.

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Skill in: handling respiratory equipment, problem solving, decision making.

Ability to: work with physically or emotionally handicapped, injured and severely ill patients; demonstrate mechanical aptitude; cooperate and communicate with others; distinguish physical and emotional disturbances in patients; do heavy lifting; communicate with a variety of people including staff, clients, family members, and medical professionals.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

Licensure to practice Respiratory Therapy in Nebraska.

SPECIAL NOTES:

State agencies are responsible to evaluate each of their positions to determine their individual overtime eligibility status as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Positions in this class work within the scope of practice outlined in the Nebraska Respiratory Care Practice Act.