

Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Polysomnographic Technologist I**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

Job Summary:

The Polysomnographic Technologist I performs polysomnographic sleep studies with pediatric/adult patients who are experiencing a variety of sleep disorders. Scores polysomnographic records on a regular basis.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

Core Duties

- Obtains relevant patient information, prepares and explains process to patients.
- Calibrates a variety of equipment such as oximeters, multi-channel recorders, electro and spectrographic recorders.
- Performs polysomnography, sleep studies, and multiple-sleep latency tests.
- Provides patient care in response to, and detailed observations of, clinical manifestations during sleep.
- Conducts transcutaneous monitoring (arterial blood gases) and other therapeutic interventions.
- Monitors patients throughout the study and documents any abnormalities, calibrations, artifact interventions and treatments.
- Recognizes and eliminates (if possible) causes of biological artifacts.
- Scores/interprets polysomnographic studies and generates technical reports on study results.
- Educates patient and family on sleep disorders and the use, cleaning, and maintenance of sleep related equipment.

Other Related Duties

- Provides ongoing technical support for equipment including phone consultations.
- Troubleshoots specialized equipment such as CPAP and BiPAP.
- Coordinates funding options for patients and families and refers them to appropriate resources.
- Participates in research projects and assists with the implementation of research findings where applicable.

Leadership

- Facilitates the training and education of new staff and students.
- Educates sleep technologists on polysomnography as required.

Decision-Making

- Determines when a patient requires oxygen administration and CPAP/BiPAP titration.
- Recognizes and resolves unusual or complex cases or situations or refers to appropriate individual(s).
- Initiates appropriate therapeutic interventions.

Knowledge:

Education

- Polysomnographic Certificate plus graduation from accredited Respiratory Therapy, EEG technology or Registered Nursing Program.

Registration Requirements

- Registered with the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (BRPT).

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- Extensive computer use.
- Standing, walking, bending, or sitting for extended periods of time.
- May assist with patient transfers.

Work Environment

- Exposure to needlesticks and bio-hazardous materials.
- Works in low light conditions.