

Alberta's Health Regions and Voluntary Organizations 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: **Respiratory Therapist II**

Date Updated **May 20, 2008**

Job Summary:

The Respiratory Therapist II is the therapist responsible for day-to-day coordination of an assigned area or for performing advanced respiratory work.

Work at the Respiratory Therapist II level is differentiated from work at the Respiratory Therapist I level by the additional responsibility of coordinating therapy assessment and treatment in a service area or performing advanced respiratory diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

In addition to the diagnostic and therapeutic care duties of a Respiratory Therapist I, the Respiratory Therapist II:

Core Duties

- Coordinates, monitors and assesses the clinical services in their assigned area, and acts as a clinical resource for daily operations and the development of clinical protocols.
- May perform advanced respiratory work (e.g. Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygen (ECMO), Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT), sleep disorders and neonatal or other transport).
- May organize, coordinate and participate in aspects of clinical trials and studies.
- May work with Anesthetists to perform advanced respiratory work (such as laryngoscopy, arterial lines, central venous lines, cardiac output measurements, drug preparation, peripheral venous cannulation, blood salvaging, arterial cannulation, and arterial blood gas sampling & analysis) for clients requiring/under anesthesia in neonatal, pediatric, adult and/or geriatric populations.
- Daily set-up and verification of anesthetic machines and equipment including calibrating, troubleshooting and repairs as needed.

Other Related Duties

- Assists in the development and review of regional policies, procedures, research and information as necessary.
- Assists in identifying new equipment requirements.
- Establishes and maintains adequate levels of supplies and materials for their area.

Leadership

For advanced roles:

- Provides expertise in specialty area, including functional direction to Respiratory Therapists and other health care professionals.

For on-site leadership roles:

- Participates in selection, orientation, training and evaluation of staff and students.
- Provides clinical leadership by assisting staff therapists in problem-solving regarding client assessment, treatment and discharge as required.
- Coordinates work of assigned team, including delegates/assigns workload to Therapy Assistants or students; prioritizes, schedules and manages own work.
- Makes decisions on matters pertaining to quality control, including operations and records.

Decision-Making

- Makes decisions on advanced clinical care regarding client needs and interventions.
- Resolves unusual or complex cases referred by Respiratory Therapist I's or refers concern to an appropriate individual(s).

Knowledge:

Education

- Extended diploma from an accredited school of Respiratory Therapy (e.g. NAIT, SAIT).

Registration Requirements

- Registered with the College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta (CARTA).

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- Considerable time is spent standing, walking and in close supportive contact with clients.
- Required to bend, pull, lift, perform variable movements and position changes (may be required to assume awkward positions).
- Must be able to transfer and/or assist with lifting adults/children.
- Some physical demands when transporting equipment.

Work Environment

- Primarily clean, air controlled indoor environment.
- Exposure to needle sticks, bodily fluids and bio-hazardous materials.
- Community, work, home or school visits will have variable conditions.
- Travel in all weather/road conditions.
- May be subject to verbally and/or physically aggressive clients and family.