

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 III**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

Job Summary:

The Respiratory Therapist III supervises therapy services in their assigned area or performs a specialist role as a clinical lead responsible for mentoring, promoting standards of practice, responding to clinical questions, coordinating ongoing skill and student development or conducting and/or coordinating major clinical research projects.

Work at the Respiratory Therapist III level is differentiated from work at the Respiratory Therapist II level by the higher level of supervisory, clinical leadership or research responsibilities.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

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

Core Duties:

- Supervises the application of therapeutic care, diagnosis, treatment, advanced clinical procedures, and the operation of specialized equipment and instrumentation.
- Liaises with the medical team, other departments and with appropriate levels of management.
- Facilitates communication with medical staff in relation to client status, care and discharge planning.
- Oversees on-going maintenance, troubleshooting, calibrating, and coordinating equipment repairs as needed.

or

- Is the clinical or professional practice lead.

or

- Is the principle investigator/facilitator for research.

Other Related Duties

- Participates in the development and review of department policies and procedures and communicating changes to staff.
- Collaborates with appropriate personnel in the evaluation and purchase of new products and equipment.
- Serves as a clinical resource person for hospital community regarding use and care of respiratory equipment and care plans.
- Works closely with appropriate stakeholders to develop a multidisciplinary model of care across the clinical continuum.
- Monitors and maintains adequate inventory of supplies and equipment in advance of expected utilization.
- Participates in capital project planning, direct purchase decisions and budgets.

Leadership

For advanced roles:

- As a clinical or professional practice lead, mentors, promotes and ensures standards of practice, responds to clinical questions, and coordinates on-going skills development.
- Collaborates with managers and supervisors in the provision and access to internal and external continuing education and professional development programs including certifications and upgrades.

For principle investigator/research facilitator roles:

- As a principle investigator/facilitator, develops clinical research opportunities including identification and pursuit of opportunities for collaborative research with other disciplines.
- May organize and coordinate clinical trials

For on-site leadership roles:

- Participates in recruitment, selection, orientation, training, evaluation and initial stages of discipline of staff.
- Coordinates and evaluates delivery of Respiratory Therapy programs and services in several clinical areas.
- Prepares and conducts educational sessions for students, staff, community agencies and groups.
- Makes recommendations relating to the number of staff required to adequately staff programs.
- Makes operational decisions for areas supervised with regards to staff, clinical assignments and rotations.
- Makes independent decisions on the design and delivery of educational programs, certification, re-certification and assistance to staff on skill upgrades.
- Develops and recommends policies and procedures relevant to delivery of Respiratory Therapy services.

Decision-Making

- Resolves unusual or complex cases or refers concern to the appropriate level of management.

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, including travel in all weather conditions.
- May be subject to verbally and/or physically aggressive clients and family.