

Sierra Care

JOB DESCRIPTION Respiratory Therapist

REPORTING RELATIONSHIP:

Supervised by: DON

Positions Supervised: None

Interrelationships: Nursing, Physicians, Pharmacist, Dietary, Rehabilitation, and other healthcare team members

JOB SUMMARY:

The primary purpose of your job position is to assess and care for patients with breathing disorders. Assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select assemble, check, and operate equipment.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be a certified RT or registered RT in the state of California.
2. Minimum (1) year of experience as a Respiratory Therapist preferred but not required.
3. Must possess a current, unencumbered, active license to practice as a Respiratory Therapist in the state of California.
4. Maintain current CPR certificate.

JOB FACTORS:

Physical Requirements:

Job may require considerable physical effort most of the day including kneeling, squatting, reaching, twisting, climbing, walking, exposure to temperature and humidity changes, and maximal assist in lifting and/or transferring of a 100-pound patient. Must be able to push, pull, move, and/or lift a minimum of 25 pounds to a minimum height of 5 feet and be able to push, pull, move, and/or carry such weight a minimum distance of 50 feet. It may be necessary to assist in the evacuation of residents during emergency situations.

Sierra Care

Must possess sight/hearing senses or use appropriate adaptive devices that will enable senses to function at a level required to meet the essential duties of the position.

Mental Requirements:

Must be able to work independently and make judgments based on assessments and data available and act accordingly. Must be flexible, innovative and possess good interpersonal skills. Must be able to cope with mental and emotional stress and demonstrate emotional stability.

Working Conditions:

Be able to tolerate exposure to elements including, but not limited to, odors, blood, body fluids and excrements, adverse environmental conditions and hazardous materials.

Transportation:

Must have a current valid driver's license, auto liability insurance and reliable transportation

Essential Functions:

1. Set up and operate devices such as mechanical ventilators, therapeutic gas administration apparatus, environmental control systems, and aerosol generators following specified parameters of treatment.
2. Provide emergency care including artificial respiration, external cardiac massage, and assistance with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
3. Determine requirements for treatment such as type, method, and duration of therapy; precautions to be taken; and medication and dosages compatible with physicians' orders.
4. Monitor patient's physiological responses to therapy such as vital signs, arterial blood gases, and blood chemistry changes; and consult with physician if adverse reactions occur.
5. Read prescription, measure arterial blood gases, and review patient information to assess patient's condition.

Sierra Care

6. Work as part of a team of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals to manage patient care.
7. Enforce safety rules and ensure careful adherence to physicians' orders.
8. Educate patients and their families about their conditions, and teach appropriate disease management techniques such as breathing exercises and the use of medications and respiratory equipment.
9. Explain treatment procedures to patients to gain cooperation and alleviate fears.
10. Relay blood analysis results to a physician.
11. Perform pulmonary function and adjust equipment to obtain optimum results in therapy.
12. Perform bronchopulmonary drainage and assist or instruct patients in performance of breathing exercises.
13. Demonstrate respiratory care procedures to trainees and other health care personnel.
14. Teach, train, supervise, and utilize the assistance of students, respiratory therapy technicians, and assistants.
15. Use a variety of testing techniques to assist doctors in cardiac and pulmonary research and to diagnose disorders.
16. Make emergency visits to resolve equipment problems.
17. Conduct tests such as electrocardiograms, stress testing, and lung capacity tests to evaluate patients' cardiopulmonary functions.
18. Participate as requested by Director of Nursing in the planning and conducting of in-service training classes concerning dermatologic nursing skills and procedures used within the facility.

Sierra Care

19. Inspect, clean, test, and maintain respiratory therapy equipment to ensure equipment is functioning safely and efficiently, and order repairs when necessary.
20. Maintain the **confidentiality** of all resident care information including protected health information. Report known or suspected incidents of unauthorized disclosure of such information
21. Initiate requests for consultation or referral. Respond to requests from the resident, physician, or nursing staff.
22. Examine the resident and his/her records and charts, and discriminate between normal and abnormal findings in order to recognize when to refer the resident to a physician for evaluation, supervision, or directions.
23. Participate in discharge planning, development and implementation of resident care plans, resident assessments, etc., as necessary.
24. Assist the Quality Assessment and Assurance Coordinator in developing, implementing, and maintaining an ongoing quality assurance program for respiratory therapy services.
25. Serve on, participate in, and/or attend various committees of the facility as required.
26. Administer respiratory services in accordance with established policies and procedures.
27. Recommend modifications and changes in the resident's respiratory therapy treatment as indicated.
28. Ensure that all therapist notes are informative and descriptive of the care provided and of the resident's response to the care.
29. Develop and participate in programs designed for in-service education, on the job training and orientation classes for newly assigned personnel. (Includes maintaining appropriate recordkeeping requirements of when classes were held, subject matter, attendance, etc.)
30. Maintain patient's health record as follows:

Sierra Care

- a) Patient health record shall contain patient's history and signed orders for treatment.
- b) Notes shall be entered in the patient's health record after completion of each procedure performed, the reaction of the patient to the procedure, and shall be signed and dated.
- c) Initial and continuing assessment, developments of the plan of care/treatment plan and discharge summary shall be written and entered in the patient's record.
- d) Progress notes shall be written and signed at least weekly.

Acknowledgment

I have read this job description. I fully understand the requirements set forth herein have been determined to be essential for this position. I hereby accept the position of **Respiratory Therapist** and agree to perform the tasks outlined in this job description in a safe manner and in accordance with the facility's established procedures. I understand that as a result of my employment, I may be exposed to blood, body fluids, infectious diseases, air contaminants (including tobacco smoke), and hazardous chemicals and that the facility will provide to me instructions on how to prevent and control such exposures. I further understand that I may also be exposed to the **Hepatitis B Virus** and that the facility will make available to me, free of charge, the hepatitis B vaccination. I also understand I may not release/disclose protected health or facility information without proper authorization.

I understand that my employment is at-will, and thereby understand that my employment may be terminated at-will by either the facility or myself and that such termination can be made with or without notice.

Date: _____ Signature-RT: _____

Date: _____ Signature-DON: _____