

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

**General Job Description:** Utilizes the application of scientific principles for the identification, prevention, remediation, research, and rehabilitation of acute or chronic cardiopulmonary dysfunction thereby producing optimum health and function. Reviews existing data, collects additional data, and recommends obtaining data to evaluate the respiratory status of patients, develop the respiratory care plan, and determine the appropriateness of the prescribed therapy. Initiates, conducts, and modifies prescribed therapeutic and diagnostic procedures such as: administering medical gases, humidification and aerosols, aerosol medications, postural drainage, bronchopulmonary hygiene, cardiopulmonary resuscitation; providing support services to mechanically ventilated patients; maintaining artificial and natural airways; performing pulmonary function testing, hemodynamic monitoring and other physiologic monitoring; collecting specimens of blood and other materials. Documents necessary information in the patient's medical record and on other forms, and communicates that information to members of the health care team. Obtains, assembles, calibrates, and checks necessary equipment. Uses problem solving to identify and correct malfunctions of respiratory care equipment. Demonstrates appropriate interpersonal skills to work productively with patients, families, staff, and co-workers. Accepts directives, maintains confidentiality, does not discriminate, and upholds the ethical standards of the profession.

<b>PHYSICAL STANDARDS</b>		<b>Freq*</b>
LIFT:	up to 50 pounds to assist moving patients	F
STOOP:	to adjust equipment	F
KNEEL:	to perform CPR	O
CROUCH:	to locate and plug in electrical equipment	F
REACH:	5 1/2' above the floor to attach oxygen devices to wall outlet	C
HANDLE:	small and large equipment for storing, retrieving, moving	C
GRASP:	syringes, laryngoscope, endotracheal tubes	C
STAND:	for prolonged periods of time (e.g., deliver therapy, check equipment)	C
FEEL:	to palpate pulses, arteries for puncture, skin temperature	C
PUSH/PULL:	large, wheeled equipment (e.g., mechanical ventilators)	C
WALK:	for extended periods of time to all areas of a hospital	C
MANIPULATE:	knobs, dials associated with diagnostic/therapeutic devices	C
HEAR:	verbal directions	C
HEAR:	gas flow through equipment	C
	alarms	C
	through a stethoscope such as breath or heart sounds	C
SEE:	patient conditions such as skin color, work of breathing	C
	mist flowing through tubing	F

<b>PHYSICAL STANDARDS</b>		<b>Freq*</b>
LIFT:	up to 50 pounds to assist moving patients	F
	shapes and forms associated with radiographs	F
TALK:	to communicate in English goals/procedures to patients	C
READ:	typed, handwritten, computer information in English	C
WRITE:	to communicate in English pertinent information (e.g., patient evaluation data, therapy outcomes)	C

<b>MENTAL/ATTITUDINAL STANDARDS</b>		<b>Freq*</b>
	Functions safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful situations.	F
	Maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously.	F
	Prioritize multiple tasks.	C
	Exhibit social skills necessary to interact effectively with patients, families, supervisors, and co-workers of the same or different cultures such as respect, politeness, tact, collaboration, teamwork, discretion.	C
	Maintain personal hygiene consistent with close personal contact associated with patient care.	C
	Display attitudes/actions consistent with the ethical standards of the profession.	C

\*Frequency Key: O = occasionally 1-33%; F = frequently 34-66%; C = constantly 67-100%