



THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL BOARD

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Respiratory Therapist

SALARY SCALE: Z16-11(Q.B) 10-6

DEPARTMENT: Department of Cardiovascular Services

REPORTS TO: Consultant Cardiovascular Services

DIRECT REPORTS: N/A

JOB SUMMARY

Under general supervision assists in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with abnormalities and deficiencies associated with the cardiopulmonary system. Undertakes any other related duties as assigned by management.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties listed below are intended only as an illustration of the various types of work that may be performed:

1. Sets up and operates devices such as mechanical ventilators, therapeutic gas administration apparatus, environmental control systems, and aerosol generators, following specified parameters of treatment;
2. Provides emergency care, including artificial respiration, external cardiac massage and assistance with cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
3. Determines 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. Measures arterial blood gases, and reviews patient information to assess patient condition;
6. Inspects, cleans, tests and maintains respiratory therapy equipment to ensure equipment is functioning safely and efficiently, requesting repairs when necessary;
7. Performs bronchopulmonary drainage and assist or instruct patients in performance of breathing exercises;
8. Relays blood analysis results to a physician; uses a variety of testing techniques to assist doctors in cardiac and pulmonary research and to diagnose disorders;
9. Conducts tests, such as electrocardiograms, stress testing, and lung capacity tests, to evaluate patients' cardiopulmonary functions;
10. Educates patients and their families about their conditions and teaches appropriate disease management techniques, such as breathing exercises and the use of medications and respiratory equipment;
11. Maintains charts that contain patients' pertinent identification and therapy information, in a neat and timely fashion;

12. Supports multidisciplinary quality assessment and improvement activities by participating in improving important aspects of care; participates in improving care by serving on committees or task forces, collecting data when appropriate and sharing ideas for improvement;
13. Works as part of a team of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals to manage patient care;
14. Demonstrates respiratory care procedures and the operation of related equipment to patients and other members of the hospital staff;
15. Observes health and safety protocols in the execution of duties;
16. Using customer service skills establishes and maintains effective working relationships with other employees, officials and members of the general public;
17. Performs any other related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES

1. Knowledge of safe and effective therapeutic practices and protocols across the specialties.
2. Knowledge of quality assurance protocols and practices.
3. Knowledge of safety and infection control procedures and practices.
4. Good interpersonal and communication skills.
5. Good decision-making and problem-solving skills.
6. Ability to perform assigned tasks according to exactly prescribed procedures and to make accurate observations of results.
7. Ability to work independently or as part of a team.
8. Ability to operate various therapeutic equipment used in patient treatment.
9. Ability to be patient, supportive and emotionally strong when working with patients.
10. Ability to manually handle patients.
11. Ability to deal sensitively with all patients.
12. Ability to function efficiently in a demanding, fast-paced environment.

REQUIRED TRAITS

- Co-operation
- Confidentiality
- Dedication
- Dependability
- Empathy
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Ethical
- Initiative
- Meticulousness
- Patience

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

1. A degree in Respiratory Therapy; or
2. An associate degree or diploma in Respiratory Care Technology and not less two years' relevant experience.
3. Current certification in basic, advanced and paediatric cardiac life support is required.