

## Respiratory Care Essential Functions Technology Standards

The Essential Functions for the Respiratory Therapy Program are the skills and competencies required of a respiratory therapist student to perform during their didactic and clinical training. These functions directly relate to the essential job functions the student will be expected to perform in clinical practice.

Respiratory therapists utilize the application of scientific principles for the identification, prevention, remediation, research, and rehabilitation of acute or chronic cardiopulmonary dysfunction in order to optimize health. In order to accomplish this goal the therapist must:

- Review existing data, collect additional data, and/or recommend obtaining data to evaluate the respiratory status of patients and develop the respiratory care plan.
- Determine the appropriateness of the prescribed therapy.
- Initiate, conduct, and modify prescribed therapeutic and diagnostic procedures including, but not limited to:
  - Medical gases
  - Humidification
  - Aerosols and aerosolized medications
  - Airway clearance techniques
  - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
  - Pulmonary function testing
  - Hemodynamic and other physiologic monitoring
  - Specimen collection of blood and other materials
  - Mechanical ventilation
  - Artificial airways and airway care
- Document necessary information in the patient's medical record and on other forms, and communicates that information to members of the healthcare team.
- Obtain, assemble calibrate, and check necessary equipment.
- Use 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.
- Accept directives, maintain confidentiality.
- Uphold the ethical standards of the profession.

In order to accomplish these essential functions the respiratory care student must be free of any condition that may impair

1. Visual acuity with corrective lenses to: identify cyanosis, absence of respiratory effort, very small print found on medication bottles or unit dose medication vials, physician orders, and various types of equipment.
2. Hearing ability with auditory aids to: understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speakers face; hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells from patient; hear pulses necessary for the measurement of blood pressure; and distinguish differences in the auditory characteristics of breaths sounds when performing auscultation of the chest with a stethoscope.
3. Physical ability and endurance to stand for prolonged periods of time (such as 8 – 12 hours), perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, lift loads in excess of twenty-five pounds (with appropriate lifting techniques), perform chest physiotherapy using two hands, walk at an

accelerated pace to respond to or participate in the transport of a patient during an emergency situation, push heavy equipment from room to room, and maneuver in limited spaces.

4. Manual dexterity and fine motor control to: use sterile technique to insert catheters, prepare and administer medication, assemble equipment and perform arterial and venopunctures.
5. Critical thinking skills to function safely under stressful conditions and/or in an environment to: adapt to a constantly changing environment in clinical situations involving patient care, and perform multiple tasks under stressful situations.
6. Constant mental awareness to be attentive to the patient's clinical condition and the environment in which the therapist is functioning in at all times to: work with potential hazards (blood borne pathogens and tuberculosis), follow standard precautions to prevent exposures, provide patient care safely and effectively in an environment with excessive auditory and visual stimuli (i.e. an intensive care unit or emergency department with audible and visual alarms).
7. Effective verbal and written communicate skills to explain therapy, describe patient conditions, and implement patient education. This includes the ability to write legibly and correctly in the patient's chart for legal documentation.

As a respiratory care student I understand the essential functions and verify that I have the sensory-motor capabilities that enable me to meet the aforementioned requirements.

I also understand that as a component of and condition for acceptance into the respiratory care program;

1. I must possess a valid state driver's license or reliable transportation to and from clinical sites including, but not limited to Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Warren, Salem and Western PA, as well as to and from patients' homes during the homecare specialty rotation.
2. My physician will verify my ability to meet the essential functions.
3. I must pass a physical examination and background check (FBI & BCI) the semester prior to scheduled clinical practice (spring semester of year 3). This is required by the clinical affiliates and is in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code which requires; ***“those applying for a license or certificate issued by the Ohio Respiratory Care (Board) for the practice of respiratory care to submit fingerprints for an FBI (federal) and BCI (civilian) criminal records check completed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI&I).”***

Should I fail to be able to meet all of the requirements to perform the essential functions, I will not be able to gain entrance or progress in the program.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_