

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
STATE OF IOWA  
REGENT MERIT SYSTEM**

**Class Title:** Respiratory Therapy Technician

**Class Code:** 4910

**Pay Grade:** 410

**GENERAL CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

Under general supervision, performs respiratory care duties, including ventilator care, oxygen therapy, medicated aerosol therapy, pulmonary hygiene, blood gases, and other duties as assigned by the supervising respiratory care practitioner.

**CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Consults with and assists physicians and nurses with respiratory care plans, and facilitates the implementation of physician orders.
2. Initiates, maintains, and monitors mechanical ventilation and continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), and non-invasive respiratory monitoring.
3. Delivers and assesses efficacy of medicated aerosol therapy and oxygen therapy.
4. Performs pulmonary hygiene, including airway care, suctioning and check percussion and drainage.
5. Obtains arterial and venous blood gases from a puncture or appropriate catheter, and analyzes sample using a blood gas analyzer.
6. Performs cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
7. Instructs patients in the chronic care of pulmonary diseases.
8. Verifies operation, provides maintenance, and troubleshoots equipment.
9. Performs medical record and department charting of delivered patients cares and assessment.
10. Participates in the orientation of new staff members and in the instruction of respiratory care students.
11. Duties may also include the following special functions: Pulmonary function and exercise testing; bronchoscopy; sleep studies; and hyperbaric medicine.

The tasks listed under the heading of Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities are examples of the variety and general nature of duties performed by employees in positions allocated in the class. The list is descriptive only and should be used for no other purpose. It is not intended that any position include every duty listed, nor is it intended that related duties cannot be required.

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**KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

1. Ability to recognize patient reactions related to all respiratory care procedures.
2. Ability to use calculator for determining medication dosages and ventilation parameters.
3. Ability to communicate effectively with patients and families.
4. Ability to communicate effectively with supervisors, staff members, physicians, nurses, other health care professionals, and students.
5. Ability to physically make rounds and carry out respiratory care duties in assigned area.
6. Ability to recognize problems in assigned areas and report to supervisors.
7. Ability to use computer to obtain and process patient information.
8. Knowledge of respiratory equipment and ability to troubleshoot equipment.
9. Knowledge of Universal Precautions and fire, chemical and workplace safety procedures.
10. Knowledge of medical and technical terminology.
11. Knowledge of diseases that require respiratory care interventions.
12. Knowledge of handling and administering medical gases.

**MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Certification or eligible for certification by the National Board for Respiratory Care.
2. a. Licensed by the State of Iowa as a Respiratory Care Practitioner, or  
b. become licensed at first opportunity after appointment if currently certified, or  
c. successfully completes certification exam and becomes licensed within nine months of appointment.

3. Maintain current CPR certification.

**REVISION EFFECTIVE: July 1, 1993**

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