

Respiratory Therapist Traveler Job Description

DEFINITION

A Respiratory Therapist Traveler is a highly competent, valuable member of the professional health care team, who through clinical experience and education, performs with a high level of sophistication. The Respiratory Therapist Traveler functions independently of supervision in making observation and nursing judgments by use of the therapy process.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Current license to practice as Respiratory Therapists in the state of placement.
2. Graduate of an accredited school of therapy.
3. Has as least one (1) year of professional clinical practice as a Respiratory Therapists on the floor in the United States.

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 condition.
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. Maintain charts that contain patients' pertinent identification and therapy information.
9. Inspect, clean, test and maintain respiratory therapy equipment to ensure equipment is functioning safely and efficiently, ordering repairs when necessary.
10. 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.
11. Explain treatment procedures to patients to gain cooperation and allay fears.
12. Relay blood analysis results to a physician.
13. Perform pulmonary function and adjust equipment to obtain optimum results in therapy.
14. Perform bronchopulmonary drainage and assist or instruct patients in performance of breathing exercises.
15. Demonstrate respiratory care procedures to trainees and other health care personnel.
16. Use a variety of testing techniques to assist doctors in cardiac and pulmonary research and to diagnose disorders.
17. Conduct tests, such as electrocardiograms, stress testing, and lung capacity tests, to evaluate patients' cardiopulmonary functions.

ABILITIES AND SKILLS REQUIRED

- **Active Listening** – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Reading Comprehension** – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Monitoring** – Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

- **Critical Thinking** – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- **Time Management** – Managing one’s own time and the time of others.
- **Operation Monitoring** – Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly.
- **Active Learning** – Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
- **Troubleshooting** – Determining causes of operating errors and deciding what to do about it.

Signature: _____ Date: _____