

# *APPENDIX A*

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE  
ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL

*RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM*

TECHNICAL SKILLS  
AND  
COMPETENCIES

## RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONER'S 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
- Functions safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful situations
- Maintains composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously
- Prioritizes multiple tasks
- Accepts directives, maintains confidentiality, does not discriminate, and upholds the ethical standards of the profession

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STANDARDS

The Respiratory Care Program requires agility and strength sufficient to move from room to room, lift and position patients, maneuver in small places, and perform clinical services. Students must possess gross and fine motor abilities as well as auditory, visual, and tactile acuity, which are required to assess health status and perform effective patient care. To achieve the necessary requirements for issuance of an Associate in Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care, the graduate must meet technical skills with or without reasonable accommodations. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability & Access Center at 618-222-5368 or 618-234-3347 (TDD) to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. See the chart below for specific requirements by the Respiratory Care program.

Frequency:     O = Occasionally (1-33%)     F = Frequently (34-66%)     C = Constantly (67-100%)

<b>Physical Stamina Required (Description)</b>	Frequency	Specify need for accommodation
<i>Lift</i> - up to 50 lbs to assist moving patients, supplies, equipment.	F	
<i>Lift</i> - up to 200 lb when moving patients	O	
<i>Stoop</i> - adjust equipment.	F	
<i>Kneel</i> - manipulate equipment, perform CPR, plug in electrical equipment	O	
<i>Reach</i> - overhead lights, equipment, cabinets, attach oxygen to outlets, stocking	C	
<i>Motor skills, manual dexterity</i> – small and large equipment for storing, moving; apply sterile gloves; take BP; operate computers; perform CPR; utilize syringes, tubes, catheters; set up and maintain sterile field	C	
<i>Stand</i> for prolonged periods of time (to deliver therapy, check equipment and patient; perform surgical procedures).	C	
<i>Climb Stairs</i> to respond quickly to an emergency on another floor when elevators are unavailable or full.	O	
<i>Feel</i> - palpate pulses; perform physical exams; feel arteries or veins for puncture; assess skin temperature.	C	
<i>Push/Pull</i> large wheeled equipment, i.e. mechanical ventilators, wheelchairs, patients, x-ray, equipment, EKG machines, and office equipment.	C	
<i>Walk</i> for extended periods of time.	C	
<i>Walk quickly or run</i> to respond to emergency calls or assist in critically ill patient transports	O	
<i>Manipulate</i> - knobs, dials associated with diagnostic or therapeutic devices; small instruments, syringes.	C	
<i>Hear</i> - verbal directions, alarms, telephone; hear through a stethoscope for heart sounds, lung sounds, and blood pressure.	C	
<i>See</i> - patient conditions such as skin color, work of breathing; read small print and calibration on equipment; perceive color.	C	
<i>Talk</i> - communicate goals and procedures to patients in English.	C	
<i>Read</i> - typed, handwritten, computer information in English.	C	
<i>Write</i> - communicate pertinent information (patient assessment, outcome assessments) in English.	C	
<b>Mental Attitude (Description)</b>		

Function safely, effectively and calmly under stressful situations.	C	
Maintain composure and concentration while managing multiple tasks simultaneously.	C	
Prioritize multiple tasks.	C	
Social skills necessary to interact with patients, families, co-workers - of the same or different cultures; respectful, polite, discrete; able to work as a team.	C	
Maintain personal hygiene consistent with close contact during direct patient care.	C	
Display actions, attitudes consistent with ethical standards of the profession.	C	
<i>Exposure to blood borne pathogens – Hepatitis, HIV.</i>	F	

### COMPETENCIES EVALUATED THROUGHOUT THE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

The graduate's performance requires demonstration of the knowledge, ability, and initiative to perform as a Respiratory Therapist as outlined in the general job description. To achieve the necessary requirements for issuance of an Associate in Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care, the graduate must perform all required competencies in lab and clinic with or without reasonable accommodations.

The performance evaluation tool used is from the following textbook:

White, Gary. (2013). *Basic clinical lab competencies for respiratory care* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Delmar Publishers Inc.

## Required Performance Evaluations

Lab Course	Clinical Course	White's Page #	Performance Evaluation	On File?
105	105	15	Handwashing	Yes No
105	105	17	Isolation Procedures	Yes No
105	105	33	Vital Signs	Yes No
105	105	35	Breath Sounds	Yes No
105	113	49	Physical Assessment	Yes No
105	115	73	Chest X-Ray Interpretation	Yes No
112	115	105	Bedside Pulmonary Function Testing	Yes No
203	206	107	Basic Spirometry	Yes No
203	206	125	Electrocardiograms (ECG)	Yes No
105	115	153	Arterial Puncture	Yes No
105	204	155	Arterial Line Sampling	Yes No
203	N/A	157	Capillary Sampling ( <b>LAB ONLY</b> )*	* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
105	113	193	Pulse Oximeter Monitoring	Yes No
105	113	213	Documentation and Goals Assessment	Yes No
104	204	237	Oxygen Supply Systems	Yes No

104	113	261	Oxygen Administration		Yes	No
104	113	279	MDI Administration		Yes	No
104	113	281	DPI Administration		Yes	No
104	113	299	Humidity and Aerosol Therapy		Yes	No
104	113	301	Small Volume Nebulizer Therapy		Yes	No
105	113	335	Patient Positioning		Yes	No
104	204	337	Chest Percussion and Postural Drainage		Yes	No
104	204	339/341	PEP / Flutter / Acapella		Yes	No
104	N/A	343	HFCWO (Vest) <b>(LAB ONLY)*</b>		* <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
104	113	371	Incentive Spirometry		Yes	No
112	N/A	373	IPPB Therapy <b>(LAB ONLY)*</b>		* <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
104	206	375	IPV – Intrapulmonary Percussive Ventilation		Yes	No
104	115	439	Manual Resuscitation		Yes	No
112	204	441	Intubation and Securing the Airway		Yes	No
112	115	443	Extubation		Yes	No
112	206	469	Naso-tracheal Suctioning		Yes	No
112	113	471	Endotracheal Suctioning		Yes	No
112	113	473	Monitoring Cuff Pressure		Yes	No
112	115	475	Tracheostomy and Stoma Care		Yes	No
112	115	529	Initiation of Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV)		Yes	No
112	204	599	Initiation of Volume Control Ventilation		Yes	No
112	204	601	Initiation of Pressure Control Ventilation		Yes	No
112	204	603	Initiation of CPAP or Pressure Support Ventilation		Yes	No
112	113	605	Monitoring Mechanical Ventilation		Yes	No
114	204	639	Advanced Ventilator Modes		Yes	No
114	204	653	Waveform Analysis		Yes	No
112	204	671-673	Spontaneous Breathing Trial		Yes	No
114	N/A	743	Pediatric Ventilation Initiation <b>(LAB ONLY)*</b>		* <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
203	N/A	743	Neonatal Ventilation Initiation <b>(LAB ONLY)*</b>		* <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
114	204	745	Monitoring of Pediatric Ventilation		Yes	No
203	206	745	Monitoring of Neonatal Ventilation		Yes	No
203	N/A	747	Initiation of Neonatal Nasal CPAP <b>(LAB ONLY)*</b>		* <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
203	206	749	Monitoring of Neonatal Nasal CPAP		Yes	No

**\*(LAB ONLY) Performance Evaluations MUST still be turned in to be kept in your school file.**