

About Respiratory Therapy

Upon completion of these approved programs graduates write the examination prescribed by the Canadian Board for Respiratory Care and frequently achieve high national rankings.

Upon successful completion of these approved programs and examination practitioners become registered with the College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta and are legally permitted to use the title Registered Respiratory Therapist, Registered Respiratory Technologist or Respiratory Technologist and use the professional designation RRT. Every year Registered Respiratory Therapists must renew their registration and submit their verification forms identifying practice hours worked in the previous year.

Respiratory Therapists maintain their continuing competency in a variety of other ways. In addition to the practice hours worked the College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta convenes an annual education forum where internationally recognized speakers are invited to present on contemporary cardiopulmonary care issues. Respiratory Therapists also attend a wide variety of regular professional development opportunities within the facilities where they are employed. Additionally, many Respiratory Therapists subscribe to the RRT: The Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy published by the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists and Respiratory Care published by our professional colleagues in the United States of America.

The following is a list of basic and advanced patient care services provided by Respiratory Therapists upon the prescription of a physician.

Basic Services

- patient care services
- cardiopulmonary resuscitation and support
- mechanical ventilation
- patient transport
- aerosol therapy
- humidity therapy
- patient transport
- aerosol therapy
- distribution of anesthetic agents and gases
- distribution and administration of medical gas supplies
- non-invasive cardiopulmonary testing and monitoring
- transcutaneous monitoring
- arterial and capillary punctures
- maintenance of equipment used in the provision of the preceding health services
- research and education in any of the preceding health services
- administration or supervision of programs involving the provision of any of the preceding health services
- assisting in the management plan development related to Respiratory Therapy

Advanced Services

The following services require a physician's prescription and certification in a board approved training program.

- neonatal transport
- endotracheal intubation
- arterial line sampling
- specialized pulmonary diagnostic techniques and evaluation procedures
- airway provocation studies
- long-term pacemaker programming and evaluation
- hemodynamic monitoring

The following services require a physician's prescription, certification in a board approved training program and be provided under the direct supervision of a physician

- cardiac tolerance testing
- assisting in pacemaker implantation and evaluation
- assisting in bronchoscopy techniques
- assisting in anesthesia

These services are provided in accordance with the standards of practice and code of ethics Registered Respiratory Therapists adhere to. Respiratory Therapists embrace technological change and welcome innovative procedures and protocols to enhance patient care. Respiratory Therapists are action oriented result committed rapid decision makers dedicated to positive patient care interventions working in a multi-skilled environment.