

Notice to Regulated Members from Council

The College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta (CARTA) office has fielded a number of calls from regulated members concerned about the prospect of being asked by their employers to perform “other duties” during a pandemic surge emergency. The expressed concerns may be summarized as:

“What is the liability of regulated members in the event of an adverse outcome resulting from direction to perform duties they are marginally trained to do, or outside their normal scope of practice?”

Council has discussed this issue and recognizes that a public health emergency may place unusual demands on healthcare workers of all disciplines. Pandemic planning and Government legislation regarding public health emergencies provides for marginally trained individuals to perform beyond their normal scope of practice, up to and including the performance of restricted activities.

CARTA functions to protect the public in matters of complaints against regulated members, however, the principles of natural justice require that during conditions of public health emergency, CARTA will investigate any complaint arising to first establish the roles and responsibilities of the employer, and the nature of the workplace demands placed on our regulated member.

There is always the expectation that our members will exercise due diligence in their practice and perform to the absolute best of their abilities, with the patient’s well-being and safety always of paramount concern¹.

CARTA will fully support the actions of all members who perform extraordinary duties in good faith at the direction of their employers.

1. CARTA – Code of Ethics