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RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Nature of Work

Under general supervision, performs responsible technical work at the full-performance level in administering oxygen and aerosolized medications to respiratory patients in a state hospital. Duties include working with physicians in the evaluation of patients and determination of restorative therapy needs. Work is performed under the supervision of a physician and is reviewed by observation of work and records evaluation. Performs related duties as required.

Examples of Work

Assembles respiratory equipment and administers therapy to patients.
Consults with physicians to recommend a change in therapy based on the evaluation of the patient; implements the written orders of the physician in relation to respiratory therapy procedures.
Takes and records pulse rate, respiratory rate, and breath sounds when patient is being treated; prepares patient for procedures and/or treatment by explaining procedures and/or treatment.
Observes patient during treatments or procedures and monitors equipment to ensure proper functionality to maximize patient safety.
Notifies nursing department or physician of adverse reactions to treatment and documents reaction in patient's chart; maintains records on patients receiving respiratory therapy.
Cleans, sterilizes, and performs preventive maintenance and minor repairs to respiratory equipment.
Prepares monthly report of total amount of oxygen consumed and aerosol agents used.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of the equipment and techniques used in respiratory therapy and pulmonary function testing.
Knowledge of cardiopulmonary physiology and pathology.
Ability to work therapeutically with patients.
Ability to prepare clear and concise written reports.
Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.
Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

Minimum Qualifications

Training: Associate's degree in Respiratory Therapy from a college or university accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) which was formerly the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA), Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and American Medical Association (AMA).

Established: 07/16/1992
Revised: 05/03/2018
Effective: 05/03/2018