

UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ

DIVISION OF ALLIED SCIENCES

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK

Essential Functions

The following general description of responsibilities and specific technical standards pertain to observations, communication, intellectual/conceptual, motor, and behavioral skills that are associated with the role of the respiratory care student and licensed respiratory therapists.

Observation Skills

- Collects and reviews data; recommends additional data to evaluate status of patients; develops the respiratory care plan and determines the appropriateness of the prescribed therapy.
- Observes patient conditions such as skin color, work of breathing and accessory muscle use.
- Perceives high and low-pitched sounds of variable intensities against significant background noise (e.g., blood pressure/Korotkoff sounds, breath sounds, heart sounds, equipment sounds and alarms).
- Hears/responds to verbal directions; communicate verbally in English to patients and coworkers.

Communication Skills

- Documents necessary information in the patient's medical records and on other forms and communicates the information to members of the health care team.
- Communicates pertinent patient information verbally and in writing in English pertinent (e.g., patient evaluation data, therapy outcomes).

Cognitive Skills

- Applies scientific principles for the identification, prevention, remediation, research and rehabilitation of acute or chronic cardiopulmonary dysfunction, to achieve optimum health outcomes.
- Reads printed, handwritten or computer information in English.
- Uses problem-solving to identify and correct malfunctions of respiratory care equipment.
- Maintains confidentiality and upholds the ethical standards of the profession.
- Performs frequent practical, oral and written examinations and/or demonstrations.
- Attends and participates in didactic and clinical education and training, on and off campus.

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Motor (Psychomotor) Skills

- Initiates, conducts and modifies prescribed therapeutic and diagnostic procedures such as: administering medical gases, humidification and aerosols, aerosol medications, postural drainage, broncho-pulmonary 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; and collecting specimens of blood and other materials.
- Works assigned hours attending to patients.
- Obtains, assembles, calibrates, and checks necessary equipment.
- Lifts to 50 pounds to assist in moving patients or equipment.
- Scoops, kneels and/or crouches to perform procedures (CPR) or adjust equipment.
- Reaches at least five and one-half feet (66") above the floor to attach equipment to wall outlets.
- Pushes/pulls and moves large, wheeled equipment, e.g., mechanical ventilators, beds, and stretchers.
- Grasps and manipulates with precision small equipment (syringes, laryngoscopes, etc.).
- Walks/stands for prolonged periods of time (e.g., deliver therapy, make rounds, respond to calls).
- Manipulates with precision any knobs, dials or keypads used with diagnostic/therapeutic devices.
- Palpates/feels with precision the location and character of normal/abnormal anatomic structures (e.g., pulses, artery locations, subcutaneous emphysema).

Behavioral and Social (Affective) Skills

- Demonstrates appropriate interpersonal skills in working with patients, families, staff and co-workers.
- Accepts and follows through on all directives and instructions
- Functions safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful situations (life-threatening emergencies, dealing with terminally ill patients and their families).
- Prioritizes multiple tasks; maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Exhibits the social skills needed to interact effectively with patients, families,

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supervisors and coworkers of the same or different cultures; exhibits respect, politeness, tact, collaboration, teamwork, and discretion.

- Maintains personal hygiene consistent with close personal contact associated with patient care.
- Displays attitudes/actions consistent with the ethical standards of the profession.