

Respiratory Therapy

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What is Respiratory Therapy?

Respiratory Therapists are highly skilled healthcare professionals. They care for patients by evaluating, treating, and maintaining cardiopulmonary function. Respiratory Therapists have specialized medical expertise and use advanced medical technology.

What do Respiratory Therapists do?

Respiratory Therapists provide advanced life support to patients that are very sick. Typical duties include:

- Treat patients that have experienced trauma or are in surgery or intensive care.
- Help with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Stabilize high-risk patients being moved by air or ground ambulance.
- Provide support in high-risk births by attending high-risk deliveries and providing support for babies who have trouble breathing.

Respiratory Therapists have many other duties. Some of these include:

- Delivering anesthesia. Administering inhaled drugs or medical gases.
- Do tests to measure lung function.
- Provide hyperbaric oxygen therapy and rehabilitation services.
- Teach patients to manage a variety of medical conditions including asthma.

Where do Respiratory Therapists work?

Respiratory Therapists work in almost every area of the hospital. You will find us in the Emergency Room, Operating Room, every floor, the Sleep Lab, the Pulmonary Function Lab, Intensive Care Units and Neonatal Intensive Care Units. Respiratory Therapists also work for home care companies, clinics or chronic care facilities.

Licensure:

To become a Respiratory Therapist, students follow training programs offered by either community colleges or universities. Colleges offer a three-year diploma program and universities offer a four-year degree program.

What is the CSRT?

The governing body for Respiratory Therapy is the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT).

The role of the CSRT Director of Student Relations is to serve as a link between the CSRT Board of Directors and the entire Respiratory Therapy student body. I present student issues to the Board, serve as a student representative, and relay information for the Board to the students.