

JOB DESCRIPTION – RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

POSITION TITLE: Respiratory Therapist
REPORTING TO: Executive Director

Summary:

The Respiratory Therapist works as part of a multidisciplinary team to provide excellent care to patients living with lung disease. The Respiratory Therapist assesses client needs, provides care and establishes strong communication pathways between patients, family physicians, specialists and other community resources.

Accountability:

- The Respiratory Therapist reports to, and is responsible to, the Executive Director. All clinical decision making outside the scope of the Respiratory Therapist must be done in consultation with physicians of Woodbine Family Health Team (WFHT), non-affiliated physician partners and/or WFHT medical directives.

Authority:

- Does not direct the activities of staff or a function without direction of WFHT decision makers. The Respiratory Therapist must comply with the practice standards used by the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Practice in accordance with the standards of professional practice as outlined by the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT)
 - Evaluate patients' needs by conducting tests, educating patients on communicated diagnosis and determining respiratory therapy treatment plans in consultation with physicians
 - Provide care and education to adult patients, families and care providers using behaviour management techniques individually and in groups.
 - Conduct individual and family assessments to identify strengths, resources, psychological factors, socioeconomic impacts, educational needs and barriers to self-management.
 - Follow patient progress at appropriate intervals to track changes in behaviour and to reinforce positive behaviour.
 - Conduct Spirometry tests to allow physician interpretation and communicate the severity of respiratory dysfunction.
 - Apply the latest best-practice standards to improve the health of patients diagnosed with a respiratory illness.
 - Collaborate with an interdisciplinary team to enhance the care of patients.
 - Develop, implement and revise customized self-management plans to meet individual needs in collaboration with the patient, their family physician, and other health care practitioners
 - Maintain accurate records of patients' therapy in the electronic medical records, make reports to physicians, and participate in chart reviews.
 - Provide individual and group smoking cessation counselling to patients and include nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) for patients as deemed appropriate
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- Develop and facilitate group education sessions.

- Seek to continuously improve the operation of the clinic by evaluating processes and workflow and participating in other quality improvement activities.
- Fully participate in COPD program(s) offered by the WFHT
- Analyze the effectiveness of the program and help to identify any unmet needs.
- Serve as a resource to the team and community

Interprofessional Collaboration:

- Develop and hone collaborative community relationships to facilitate patient access to services upon physician/health care team request;
- Communicate ideas or concerns to the health care team. Participate in problem solving to enhance patient care;
- Assist in the training and development of new staff.

Practice Environment:

- Use of personal protective equipment with all patients;
- Maintain clean, orderly and well-stocked inventory of medical supplies Assist with other related duties as required.

Education/Experience:

- Graduate of an accredited Respiratory Therapy program
- Member in good standing with the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario
- Member of the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists, preferred
- Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE) designation

Skills/Abilities:

- 1 - 2 years of experience as a Respiratory Therapist in community or primary care setting
- Excellent computer literacy with Microsoft applications such as Excel, Word and Outlook
- Excellent communication skills in English (spoken, written, reading and comprehension)
- Demonstrates effective time-management skills and able to quickly make decisions to solve problems as required
- Ability to work independently and with other members of the healthcare team.
- Ability to prioritize, manage time effectively and be flexible in a very active work environment.
- Current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Level C
- Smoking cessation education/certification
- Possesses a valid driver's license

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Up to 40 working hours per week, between 9am and 8pm with an occasional Saturday morning if required (40 hours include 1 hour unpaid daily break)
- Work with staff, volunteers, students and members of the community from variety of educational backgrounds and approaches

Note: The above is intended to describe the general nature of work being performed by the incumbent(s) of this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities associated with this role. Respiratory Therapist may be assigned other related duties in consultation with the Executive Director.

