II Program Standards

The following general description of responsibilities and specific technical standards pertain to particular observational, communication, intellectual/conceptual, motor and behavioral skills that are associated with the role of the respiratory therapy student and respiratory therapist.

Respiratory Therapy Programs

Observational Standards:

1. Reviews existing data, collects additional data, and recommends obtaining data to evaluate the respiratory status of patients, develops the respiratory care plan and determines the appropriateness of the prescribed therapy.

2. Observe/see patient conditions such as skin color, work of breathing mist flowing through tubing.

3. Discern colors/color changes (e.g., skin color, colorimetric gas analysis; color graphics displays).

4. Perceive 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).

5. Hear/respond to verbal directions; communicate verbally in English to patients and coworkers

Communication Standards:

6. Documents necessary information in the patients’ medical records and on other forms, and communicates the information to members of the health care team.

7. Speak and write to communicate in English pertinent information (e.g., patient evaluation data, therapy outcomes)
Intellectual/Conceptual Standards:

8. Utilizes the application of scientific principles for the identification, prevention, remediation, research, and rehabilitation of acute or chronic cardiopulmonary dysfunction, thereby producing optimum health and functions.

9. Read typed, handwritten, or computer information in English

10. Uses problem solving to identify and correct malfunctions of respiratory care equipment.

11. Maintains confidentiality, and upholds the ethical standards of the profession.

12. Perform frequent practical, oral and written examination and/or demonstrations.

13. Attends and participate in didactic and clinical education and training, on and off campus

Motor Skill Standards:

14. 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.

15. Work lengthy and irregular hours attending to patients

16. Obtains, assembles, calibrates, and checks necessary equipment.

17. Lift up to 50 pounds to assist in moving patients or equipment

18. Scoop, kneel and/or crouch to perform procedures (CPR) or adjust equipment.
19. Reach at least five and one-half feet (66") above the floor to attach equipment to wall outlets.

20. Push/pull and move large, wheeled equipment, e.g., mechanical ventilators, beds and stretchers.

21. Grasp and manipulate with precision small equipment (syringes, laryngoscopes, etc.).

22. Walk/stand for prolonged periods of time (e.g., deliver therapy, make rounds, respond to calls).

23. Manipulate with precision any knobs, dials or keypads used with diagnostic/therapeutic devices.

24. Palpate/feel with precision the location and character of normal/abnormal anatomic structures (e.g., pulses, artery locations, subcutaneous emphysema).

**Behavioral and Social Standards:**

25. Demonstrates appropriate interpersonal skills to work productively with patients, families, staff and co-workers.

26. Accepts and follows through on directives and instruction.

27. Function safely, effectively and calmly under stressful situations (life-threatening emergencies, dealing with terminally ill patients and their families).

28. Prioritize multiple tasks; maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously.

29. Exhibit the social skills needed to interact effectively with patients, families, supervisors, and coworkers of the same or different cultures; exhibit respect, politeness, tact, collaboration, teamwork, discretion.

30. Maintain personal hygiene consistent with close personal contact associated with patient care.

31. Display attitudes/actions consistent with the ethical standards of the professions