

Respiratory Therapist Entry-Level Competencies

An entry-level Respiratory Therapist will be able to perform these competencies in the workplace without supervision.

Diagnostic Interventions

J Blood Analysis	J1 Perform arterial puncture	J2 Perform arterial line sampling	J3 Perform capillary puncture	J4 Perform venous puncture	J5 Use indwelling catheters to collect samples	J6 Perform blood gas analysis	J7 Interpret blood gas analysis	J8 Maintain blood gas analyzers (fluids)	J9 Ensure blood gas analysis quality control	J10 Interpret electrolytes		
	High	High	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High	High	High		
K Pulmonary Diagnostic Testing	K1 Perform oximetry testing	K2 Assist in bronchoscopy procedures	K3 Assist in laryngoscopy procedures	K4 Perform spirometry (flow & volume)	K5 Perform maximum voluntary ventilation	K6 Measure lung volume by body plethysmography	K7 Measure airway resistance & conductance by body	K8 Perform FRC dilution	K9 Perform nitrogen washout	K10 Measure diffusion capacity	K11 Measure static & dynamic lung compliance	K12 Perform pulmonary exercise test
	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
	K13 Perform walk test	K14 Perform bronchoprovocative testing	K15 Perform screening sleep studies	K16 Perform polysomnography study	K17 Perform transcutaneous monitoring	K18 Perform a capnography	K19 Perform sputum induction	K20 Perform sputum collection	K21 Measure inspiratory & expiratory pressure by occlusion	K22 Perform apnea test	K23 Perform testing to appropriate ATS standards	
High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	
L Cardiac Diagnostic Testing	L1 Perform an electrocardiogram	L2 Assist with transesophageal echocardiography	L3 Set up & calibrate equipment for invasive diagnostic	L4 Recognize basic arrhythmias								
	High	High	High	High								

Competency Priority Rating	
High	High
Medium	Medium
Low	Low

Therapeutic Interventions

M Hemodynamic Monitoring	M1 Insert arterial lines	M2 Interpret hemodynamic data									
	High	High									
N Basic Respiratory Care	N1 Provide oxygen therapy	N2 Provide humidity therapy	N3 Provide aerosol therapy	N4 Perform oropharyngeal suction therapy	N5 Perform nasopharyngeal suction therapy	N6 Perform endotracheal suction therapy	N7 Assist with thoracic suction or drainage therapy	N8 Perform sputum collection procedures	N9 Provide thermal regulation	N10 Teach incentive spirometry	N11 Apply pulmonary re-education techniques
	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
	N12 Assist with speech therapy	N13 Assist with body positioning techniques	N14 Insert oral/nasogastric tubes	N15 Maintain gastric suction							
High	High	High	High								
O Airway Management	O1 Maintain airway using head tilt and chin lift	O2 Maintain airway using jaw thrust	O3 Insert, manage & remove nasopharyngeal	O4 Insert, manage & remove oropharyngeal airway	O5 Insert, manage & remove endotracheal	O6 Assist with endotracheal intubation	O7 Change endotracheal tubes	O8 Maintain endotracheal tubes	O9 Insert, manage & remove laryngeal mask	O10 Insert, manage & remove 'combitube'	O11 Assist with tracheostomy
	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
	O12 Maintain, change & remove (decannulation) tracheostomy tubes	O13 Change transtracheal catheters	O14 Wean from artificial airway intervention								
High	High	High									

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Therapeutic Interventions (cont'd)

P Ventilation Management	P1 Perform bag/mask ventilation with self-inflating	P2 Perform bag/mask ventilation with flow-inflating	P3 Assist with surfactant replacement therapy	P4 Administer surfactant replacement therapy	P5 Perform ventilation via artificial tracheal airway with flow -	P6 Perform ventilation via artificial tracheal airway with self -	P7 Initiate non-invasive mechanical ventilation	P8 Maintain optimal non-invasive mechanical ventilation	P9 Wean from non-invasive mechanical	P10 Initiate invasive mechanical ventilation
	P11 Maintain optimal invasive mechanical ventilation	P12 Wean from invasive mechanical ventilation	P13 Interpret ventilator wave forms	P14 Measure pulmonary mechanics	P15 Interpret pulmonary mechanics					
Q Medical Gas Therapy	Q1 Administer medical gases	Q2 Perform medical gas analysis	Q3 Perform environmental therapy							
	R1 Set up anaesthetic equipment	R2 Assist with general & regional anaesthesia	R3 Establish vascular access through IV	R4 Assist with conscious sedation	R5 Use adjunctive intubating devices	R6 Monitor patient/client status & intervene as required	R7 Provide fluid management	R8 Recognize complications & take corrective action	R9 Assist with patient/client emergence	R10 Assist with acute/chronic pain management
S Cardio-Pulmonary Stabilization	S1 Perform BCLS to current standards	S2 Perform Neonatal Resuscitation Protocol to	S3 Perform Cardiac Advanced Life Support Protocol to	S4 Perform Pediatric Advanced Life Support Protocol to current standards	S5 Perform Basic Trauma Life Support Protocol to current	S6 Perform Advanced Trauma Life Support Protocol	S7 Assist with dysrhythmia intervention	S8 Perform external defibrillation		
	T1 Calculate drug dosages within the metric system	T2 Verify medical prescriptions	T3 Select an administrative method	T4 Administer substances by inhalation	T5 Administer substances by instillation	T6 Administer substances by injection	T7 Assess clinical manifestations	T8 Adjust medication as required		
U Patient Transportation	U1 Manage internal patient/client transportation	U2 Manage external patient/client transportation								

Competency Priority Rating

High

Medium

Low

This competency profile was developed by the Respiratory Therapy Labour Mobility Consortium with the support of Human Resources Development Canada.

- Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT)
- College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta (CARTA)
- College of Respiratory Therapy of Ontario (CRTO)
- Manitoba Association of Registered Respiratory Therapists (MARRT)
- Ordre professionnel des inhalothérapeutes du Québec (OPIQ)