

UW HEALTH JOB DESCRIPTION

SENIOR RESPIRATORY THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Job Code: 520018	FLSA Status: Non-exempt	Mgt. Approval: K. Ostrander	Date: May 2022
Department: 3032420 - Respiratory Therapy		HR Approval: K. Fleming	Date: May 2022

JOB SUMMARY

Under the general direction of a licensed UW Health Respiratory Therapist (RT), the Senior Respiratory Therapist Assistant (Sr. RTA) is the expert resource in the use of, possesses complex knowledge of and maintains the highly complex respiratory equipment and instrumentation used within respiratory care services. The Sr. RTA has successfully mastered all skills required for the RTA role and has advanced their skill set to include bronchoscopy maintenance and assisting with bronchoscopies. The Sr. RTA assists physicians or other providers with bronchoscopy and respiratory therapy procedures performed in inpatient and critical care settings. Patient populations are wide ranging and can include any patients receiving respiratory therapy services.

The Sr. RTA provides orientation, training and mentoring for new RTA staff and may also provide pertinent technical equipment support and training to licensed Respiratory Therapists. The Sr. RTA is expected to function with a high degree of autonomy and will assume additional responsibilities as delegated by the Respiratory Therapy Supervisor or other designee.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Clinical Support and Quality of Care

- Assists the physician or other providers and the patient's care team in the performance of bronchoscopy procedures including diagnostic rigid/flex, bronchoscopy with alveolar lavage, bronchoscopy with biopsy, transbronchial aspiration, bronchoalveolar lavage, airway clearance, foreign body removal, and emergent placement of difficult airways.
- Assists with advanced pulmonary critical care procedures such as bronchoscopy, tracheostomy placement, and bronchial blocking/dual lumen endotracheal tube placement.
- Provides expert assistance to the bronchoscopist, demonstrating understanding of the patient's anatomy and abnormalities which could affect the procedure.
- Recognizes emergent situations during bronchoscopy procedures and demonstrates the ability to set priorities to assist the care team.
- Assists with the collection of specimens and appropriately labels containers.
- Performs procedures as delegated in the ICU, ED, PACU and research settings.
- Participates in patient education about the procedure being performed including preparation, rationale, and expectations.
- Communicates accurate patient observations, interventions, and outcomes of procedure to the RT.
- Documents and charges for bronchoscopy procedures in the electronic health record. Documentation will include accessories used during procedures including quantity, size, and equipment identifiers for patient safety auditing.
- Provides emergency care to patients when necessary, using basic life support protocols until RT, Nursing, and/or physician staff arrives.
- Participates in supporting the patient during procedures.
- Demonstrates proper handling and use of various types and sizes of video bronchoscopes, including durable reusable scopes and varying brands of disposable scopes.
- Inspects all equipment and accessories for defects prior to use to ensure highest level of patient safety & infection prevention.
- Understands theory and safety when assisting with advanced airway clearance techniques and maintains competency in sourcing advanced procedure supplies.
- Demonstrates recognition of patient's emotional and physical needs and works to coordinate proper support with the care team.

Technical Skills and Other Responsibilities

- Coordinates procedure setup/preparation and ensures all necessary members of the care team are present.
- Properly pre-cleans/disinfects respiratory and endoscopic equipment and accessories prior to sterile processing.
- Demonstrates knowledge of proper transport of both clean and soiled bronchoscopes and other procedure equipment.
- Stocks procedure carts and supply rooms.
- Serves as the troubleshooting resource in the department for the use of equipment.
- Maintains inventory and assists with the reorder of respiratory therapy supplies.
- Assists the Respiratory Therapy Supervisor with troubleshooting, minor repairs, and calibration of equipment used by the Respiratory Therapy department and the Bronchoscopy service.
- When not engaged with bronchoscopy, assists the Respiratory Therapy department by performing equipment cleaning, processing, and supply stocking duties, consistent with the responsibilities of the RTA role.
- Orients and trains new RTA staff and others as appropriate.
- Other duties as assigned

ALL DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS MUST BE PERFORMED CONSISTENT WITH THE UW HEALTH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

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JOB REQUIREMENTS

Education	Minimum	High School Diploma or equivalent
	Preferred	Formal training or experience in medical specialty (i.e., LPN, MA, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), etc)
Work Experience	Minimum	Six (6) months working in a clinical role at UW Health AND Demonstrated success and documented completion of defined position objectives/competencies OR One (1) year clinical healthcare experience with at least three (3) months of previous experience assisting with bronchoscopy procedures
	Preferred	One (1) year experience assisting in Gastrointestinal (GI) or Pulmonary Endoscopy procedures
Licenses & Certifications	Minimum	CPR/BLS certification
	Preferred	CNA, LPN, CMA, CCMA, RMA, EMT
Required Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of communication techniques, teamwork, customer service standards, and quality improvement • Knowledge of the use of personal protective equipment • Ability to provide rotating weekend and holiday coverage • Knowledge of and ability to practice aseptic techniques and infection prevention procedures • Ability to work complete quality work and provide appropriate support in emergent situations • Attention to detail • Ability to set priorities, including in emergent situations • Demonstrated understanding of basic lung anatomy • Demonstrated ability to recognize patient/family concerns and discuss with the appropriate staff on the care team

AGE SPECIFIC COMPETENCY (Clinical jobs only)

Identify age-specific competencies for direct and indirect patient care providers who regularly assess, manage and treat patients.

Instructions: Indicate the age groups of patients served either by direct or indirect patient care by checking the appropriate boxes below. Next,

<input type="checkbox"/>	Infants (Birth – 11 months)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adolescent (13 – 19 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toddlers (1 – 3 years)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Young Adult (20 – 40 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preschool (4 – 5 years)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middle Adult (41 – 65 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	School Age (6 – 12 years)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Older Adult (Over 65 years)

JOB FUNCTIONS

Review the employee's job description and identify each essential function that is performed differently based on the age group of the patient.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Indicate the appropriate physical requirements of this job in the course of a shift. *Note: reasonable accommodations may be made available for individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of this position.*

Physical Demand Level		Occasional Up to 33% of the time	Frequent 34%-66% of the time	Constant 67%-100% of the time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sedentary: Ability to lift up to 10 pounds maximum and occasionally lifting and/or carrying such articles as dockets, ledgers and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one, which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required only occasionally and other sedentary criteria are met.	Up to 10#	Negligible	Negligible
<input type="checkbox"/>	Light: Ability to lift up to 20 pounds maximum with frequent lifting and/or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Even though the weight lifted may only be a negligible	Up to 20#	Up to 10# or requires significant walking or standing, or	Negligible or constant push/pull of items of negligible weight

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	amount, a job is in this category when it requires walking or standing to a significant degree.		requires pushing/pulling of arm/leg controls	
X	Medium: Ability to lift up to 50 pounds maximum with frequent lifting/and or carrying objects weighing up to 25 pounds.	20-50#	10-25#	Negligible-10#
	Heavy: Ability to lift up to 100 pounds maximum with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing up to 50 pounds.	50-100#	25-50#	10-20#
	Very Heavy: Ability to lift over 100 pounds with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing over 50 pounds.	Over 100#	Over 50#	Over 20#
List any other physical requirements or bona fide occupational qualifications:				

Note: The purpose of this document is to describe the general nature and level of work performed by personnel so classified; it is not intended to serve as an inclusive list of all responsibilities associated with this position.