

EXAMINABLE AREAS FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPY

- A. Patient Assessment
 - 1. Complete the assessment through direct contact, chart review, and other means as appropriate, and share the information with healthcare team members.
 - 2. Obtain medical, surgical, and family history.
 - 3. Obtain social, behavioral, and occupational history, and other historical information incident to the purpose of the current complaint.
- B. Diagnostic Data
 - 1. Review and interpret pulmonary function studies (spirometry).
 - 2. Review and interpret lung volumes and diffusion studies.
 - 3. Review and interpret arterial blood gases, electrolytes, complete blood cell count, and related laboratory tests.
- C. Physical Examination
 - 1. Inspect the chest and extremities to detect deformation, cyanosis, edema, clubbing, and other anomalies.
 - 2. Measure vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate).
 - 3. Evaluate patient breathing effort, ventilatory pattern, and use of accessory muscles.
 - 4. Measure and document oxygen saturation with oximetry under all appropriate conditions (with or without oxygen at rest and during sleep, ambulation and exercise)
- D. Chronic Disease Management
 - 1. Understand the etiology, anatomy, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of cardiopulmonary diseases (e.g., asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and comorbidities.
 - 2. Communicate and educate to empower and engage patients.
 - 3. Develop, administer, and re-evaluate the care plan via:
 - a. Establish specific desired goals and objectives.
 - b. Evaluate the patient.
 - c. Apply a working knowledge of the pharmacology of all organ systems.
 - d. Provide psychosocial, emotional, physical, and spiritual care.
 - e. Education on nutrition, exercise, wellness.
 - f. Environmental assessment and modification.
 - g. Monitoring and follow-up evaluation.
 - h. Development of action plans.
 - i. Apply evidence-based medicine, protocols, and clinical practice guidelines.
 - j. Monitor adherence through patient collaboration and empowerment, including proper and effective device and medication utilization.
 - k. Implement and integrate appropriate patient-education materials and tools.
 - l. Utilize appropriate diagnostic and monitoring tools.
 - m. Document and monitor outcomes (economic, quality, safety, patient satisfaction).
 - n. Communicate, collaborate, and coordinate with physicians, nurses, and other clinicians.
 - o. Assess, implement, and enable patient resources support system (family, services, equipment, personnel).
 - p. Ensure financial/economic support of plan/program and related documentation
- E. Acute Disease Management
 - 1. Develop, administer, evaluate, and modify respiratory care plans in the acute-care setting, using evidence based medicine, protocols, and clinical practice guidelines.

2. Incorporate the patient/therapist participation principles listed in chronic disease management.

F. Team Membership

1. Understand the role of being a contributing member of organizational teams as it relates to planning, collaborative decision making, and other team functions.
2. Understand fundamental/basic organizational implications of regulatory requirements on the healthcare system.
3. Demonstrate effective written and verbal communication with various members of the healthcare team, patients, families, and others (cultural competence and literacy)
4. Demonstrate basic knowledge of health-care and financial reimbursement systems and the need to reduce the cost of delivering respiratory care
5. Understand the role of team leader: specifically, how to lead groups in care planning, bedside decision making, and collaboration with other healthcare professionals
6. Develop the ability to generate questions on the efficacy or otherwise of the treatment modalities and approaches available to Respiratory Therapists in order to promote research efforts in the profession.
7. Employ ethical and clinical decision making in the management of cardiopulmonary-related cases.
8. Demonstrate duty and responsibility to use evidence to inform practice and to ensure that the care of clients, their careers and communities is based on the best available evidence.
9. Demonstrate adequate understanding of the role and function of the other disciplines, appreciating the core differences as well as the common features.
10. Exhibit professional actions and conduct that are always within professional code of ethics and conduct.
11. Develop effective working relationships with the colleagues and other health professionals through communication and improved understanding.
12. Show collaborative practice with other healthcare professionals in the care of clients as may be found applicable to Respiratory Therapy
13. Identify and advocate for healthcare needs of the society across all ages and cultural backgrounds.