POSITION: RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

STATUS: Non-exempt
Various shifts (day, night)
12 hours/shift;
Full-Time - 36 hours/week (0.9)
Part-Time - 24 hours/week (0.6)
Casual - 12 hours/week (0.3), call-in

REPORTS TO: DIRECTOR OF RESPIRATORY SERVICES

POSITION SUMMARY:
Respiratory therapists evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing problems. Treatment provided may involve operating equipment to administer oxygen, using mechanical ventilation, and administering medications in aerosol form. Respiratory therapists also assist in diagnosing a patient's condition. This may involve analyzing specimens, interpreting data, measuring a patient's lung capacity, and performing stress tests and other studies. Respiratory therapists perform therapeutic and/or diagnostic procedures under the direction of Medical Director, consulting pulmonologists, Director of Nursing Services (DON), Administrator, or Director of Respiratory Services.

WORKING CONDITIONS:
Indoor/outdoor environment. Frequently exposed to various fluids, noise, moisture, noxious odors, gases, and biological and chemical agents. May be exposed to infections, contagious diseases, and blood borne pathogens. Occasionally exposed to safety hazards, disease, contamination, patient elements, and dust/mold. Handles emergency or crisis situations and may perform emergency care.

EQUIPMENT USE:
Frequently uses respiratory equipment, hospital bed, thermometer, stethoscope, BP sphygmomanometer, bedscale, wheelchair, gurneys, lifts, oxygen, gerichairs, restorative therapy devices (canes, walkers, weights, etc.) medical-surgical supplies, automated telephone system, intercom/resident call system, addressograph stamp machine, copy machine, facsimile machine, personal computer/printer, general office supplies, personal care items, crafts, and other recreational materials and equipment.

WORK HOURS:
Generally thirty-six (36) hours/week, weekdays, weekends, and holidays according to facility/company needs. Additional work hours may be required, as necessary. Works beyond normal working hours and on weekends/holidays as needed.

MENTAL DEMANDS:
Duties require attention to detail, alertness, problem-solving, tolerance to mental and emotional stress, ability to follow orders/directions, sound judgment, mathematical ability, scientific logic, abstract thinking, and intuitive sense.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:
Continuous standing; walking; handling; fingering; eye-hand-foot coordination; use of corrected vision; depth perception; wide field of vision; color vision; use of auditory, olfactory and tactile senses. Frequent bending over; stooping; kneeling; crouching; pushing; pulling; sitting; reaching; climbing/balancing on a step stool to reach supplies/equipment; repetitive movement; climbing stairs; carrying up to 25 pounds. Occasional crawling; running; pushing up to 250 pounds; pulling up to 250 pounds; lifting up to 50 pounds. Subject to frequent interruptions.

COMMUNICATION DEMANDS:
Continuous talking/listening to co-workers, residents, physicians, visitors. Frequent reading, talking on telephone, receiving orders/instructions; speaking, and writing/composing written language (English). Requires contacts both

inside and outside at all organizational levels. Requires considerable tact, discretion and persuasion to obtain results. May present new methods, programs, and controversial issues. Improper handling may affect operating results and/or patient care delivery.

QUALIFICATIONS / REQUIREMENTS:

- Associate of Science Degree from an approved school of Respiratory Care and has passed the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) Certification Exam.
- Heartsavers Cardiac Life Support (Course "A") required.
- Knowledge and application of science, diagnostics and therapeutics of respiratory care.
- Ability to disassemble, assemble, calculate, test and verify operation of respiratory care equipment during cleaning and maintenance procedures.
- Prior employment experience in pediatric, long-term care, and/or equivalent setting preferred.
- Over six months as a staff Certified Respiratory Therapist preferred.

A. SPECIFIC JOB DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS:

1. Participation in formulation, implementation, and evaluation of patients respiratory care plan.
2. Determination of patient's respiratory status by physical assessment, use of monitoring systems, survey of a patient's chart and evaluation of pulmonary function tests, blood gas analysis, chest x-ray reports, and other pertinent lab data.
3. Consultation with physicians, other health care team members, patient's and their families.
4. Independent utilization of specialized respiratory care equipment.
5. Medical gas and aerosol administration.
6. Drug administration specific to respiratory care.
7. Airway care.
8. Chest physiotherapy and postural drainage.
9. CPR and resuscitation support, Code 500 support as necessary.
10. Resource for tracheostomy tube and endotracheal intubation care and management.
11. Hyperinflation therapy.
12. Management of mechanical ventilators.
13. Use and interpretation of diagnostic and monitoring equipment in assessment and management of patient's (e.g.; ABG analysis, PFT's, etc.)
14. May perform pulmonary function testing as appropriate.
15. Performs Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) sticks and capillary blood draws.
16. Transport and management of respiratory care patients within our facility and between other facilities.
17. Participates in discharge planning.
18. Maintenance and repair of respiratory equipment.
19. Maintenance of in-service education and professional development.
20. Maintenance of records and charting of therapeutic activities.
21. Participation in performance improvement monitoring and policy formation.
22. Education of other respiratory care staff, nursing home personnel, patients, and their families.
23. Exercises independent clinical judgment under physicians' orders and supervision.
24. Maintains customer focus throughout all activities.

B. OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES:

1. Attends and participates in meetings and committees as requested.
2. Performs other duties as required.

Acknowledged: _____ Date: _____

PRINT NAME/ SIGNATURE