

RESPIRATORY THERAPY DEPARTMENT

The King Fahad Hospital is a 528-bed referral facility providing highest quality health care services to SANG employees, their dependents, and all hospital employees.

The Respiratory Therapy Department is an independent division of Cardiopulmonary Services and is extensively involved in providing Respiratory care to all inpatient and outpatient areas of the hospital.

The department operates under the medical guidance of a Pulmonologist and is very well respected by both nursing and medical staff. It is a continually growing and expanding department, utilizing innovative techniques and approaches to keep pace with North American standards.

Respiratory Therapy services are provided 24 hours a day in all areas of the hospital including NICU, Adult and Pediatrics ICU, Burn Unit, Emergency Room, General Wards, and Clinics. Respiratory Therapists (RT's) are responsible for initiating, maintaining, and monitoring all respiratory care within the hospital. The RT's principal duties include: airway management, oxygen and aerosol therapy, ABG's, arterial line insertion, chest physiotherapy, and non-invasive monitoring. RTs also assist with transporting all intubated patients within the hospital and limited outside transfers.

The care of mechanically ventilated patients is usually performed in accordance with established protocols. Blood gas parameters are ordered by the physician, and the RT manages the ventilator to maintain the patient's ABG's within the parameters. This protocol allows for a large amount of independent decision making by the RT.

Ward therapy is administered according to physician orders, through the RT does have frequent consultations with the physician to offer advice and air concerns.

The RTs work 12-hour shifts, 0700-1930 and 1900-0730, and may rotate through all areas of the hospital. The Registered Respiratory Therapists work approximately 80% in the ICU areas.

An extensive orientation covering all clinical areas is provided to all new employees and every attempt is made to allow each therapist to work in their clinical area of preference.

The Respiratory Therapy Department is well equipped with modern equipment and disposables are utilized whenever feasible.

The recycling and maintaining of non-disposable equipment, as well as equipment stocking, is performed by RT Assistants, allowing Therapists to concentrate on clinical bedside activities.

Biomedical Engineering personnel perform required corrective and preventive maintenance on all equipment.

Due to the varied backgrounds of the staff, RTs find themselves stimulated and challenged with new ideas and theories. This makes for an interesting and rewarding clinical experience, but flexibility and an open mind are definite requirements.

RTs perform all the ABG's and CBG's in their units. They are responsible for inserting arterial lines, radial or pedal. They do not intubate.

There are three blood gas laboratories: one in NICU, one in the ICU 2/3 area, and one in the main department.

BLOOD GAS MACHINES:

178 Corning
280 Corning
2500 Co-Oximeter
168 Corning back-up

MECHANICAL VENTILATORS:

Siemens 900C
Bear 5
Bear BP 2000
Sechrist

There are approximately 20 Registered Respiratory Therapists on staff with 3 being out on holiday at any one time.

There are approximately 12 Respiratory Technicians with 2 being out on holiday at any on time.

There are two supervisors on day shift and on supervisor working evenings.