

RESPIRATORY THERAPY DEPARTMENT

The Respiratory Therapy department must deal with a variety of situations that are unique to the performance of diagnostic imaging tests and procedures. Review the topics below, discussing with your Respiratory Therapy staff how your department manages each issue. Write your conclusions in summary format for review by all department members – to prepare your department for surveyor inquiry on these subjects:

- Ventilator tubing changes – rationale related to infection control purposes:

- Equipment procurement, maintenance and biomedical certification:

- Use of outside services (including assurance of outside service competency and quality):

- Education and training on new equipment:

- Quality Control activities (equipment calibrations, etc.):

Respiratory Therapy Department Documentation Guidelines

Documentation of patient management by the Respiratory Therapy Department staff is a key focus area during survey. The following areas will be reviewed in open and closed patient records by your surveyor:

- Patient diagnosis, symptomatology and presentation documented during initial respiratory therapy evaluation
- Acuity of patient condition and plan of immediate and ongoing patient care
- Initial patient assessment, which includes, but may not be limited to:
 - Assessment of the patient's pulmonary status
 - Mental condition
 - Vital signs
 - Age specific conditions and/or issues that are age related
 - Presence or absence of pain
- Interdisciplinary assessment, which includes assessment of data elements provided by other disciplines as appropriate – which may impact the respiratory management of the patient:
 - Nutritional status
 - Functional status
 - Pain management and control
 - Discharge planning
- Interventions performed for the patient including:
 - Reassessment(s) of the patient's condition
 - Ordering and collection of blood/body fluid specimens
 - ✓ Include time specimens ordered and time collected
 - ✓ As appropriate to patient condition, document that patient was informed about rationale for testing

Potential Surveyor Questions for Respiratory Therapy Department Personnel

Review the list of possible surveyor questions, providing your answers in the space provided:

1. How are unplanned patient procedures in the Respiratory Therapy Department and throughout the organization managed? How is additional staff supplied if needed?

2. Does the Respiratory Therapy Department utilize registry personnel? How do you know the registry personnel are competent to provide care at the same level as the Respiratory Therapy Department staff?

3. How do you involve the patient in participating in care decisions? How do you involve the patient's family?

4. How are pharmacy services provided to the Respiratory Therapy Department when the pharmacy is closed?
