

AARC 2015 Survey of Respiratory Therapy Department Directors

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

* 1. Please indicate the city and state where your hospital is located.

City/Town:

State:

* 2. This survey should be completed by the Department Director if possible, if not by their designee. What is your position in the Department? Select one only.

3. How many beds are supported by your facility? Use only whole numbers with no letters or commas.

4. How many full time equivalent respiratory therapists are employed or are expected to be employed in each of the following years? Answer with whole numbers only for all positions that require graduation from an accredited respiratory therapy program.

2010

2012

2015

2020

* 5. Which type of program do you prefer, if any, when hiring graduate respiratory therapists?

Masters

Baccalaureate

Associate

No preference

Briefly explain your choice.

* 6. How did the preparation of recent graduates (2005-2009) that you hired, meet your expectation?

Exceeded

Met

Fell below

AARC 2015 Survey of Respiratory Therapy Department Directors

* 7. How long does your institution give recent graduates to earn the RRT credential before terminating their employment?

6 months

12 months

18 months

36 months

Not applicable, we do not have this requirement

8. Do you require respiratory therapists to maintain active NBRC credentials in addition to maintaining a state license?

Yes

No

9. Does your hospital offer tuition reimbursement to staff respiratory therapists pursuing a baccalaureate or higher degrees?

Yes

No

10. Is your institution a clinical affiliate of one or more COARC accredited respiratory therapy education programs?

Yes

No (Go to question 13)

11. What is the maximum number of students you can take on clinical rotation during the academic year? Enter whole numbers only.

12. How many hours of clinical practice to respiratory therapy students can you provide during the entire academic year? Answer with whole numbers and multiply the number of students x the number of hours they are in your facility, e.g., 6 students x 200 hours/each = 1200.

AARC 2015 Survey of Respiratory Therapy Department Directors

13. What are the barriers to taking students, or taking more students, on clinical rotations? Select all that apply.

- Inadequate number of hospital-based clinical preceptors.
- Clinical instructors are not provided by the program.
- Not enough clinical experiences appropriate for students.
- Workload prevents staff from serving as clinical preceptors.

Other (please specify)

14. How many full time equivalent "unfilled" staff respiratory therapist positions to you have? Do not include supervisory positions and use only whole numbers.

15. How many additional, "new", full time equivalent staff respiratory therapist positions to you expect to need by 2015? Do not include supervisory positions and use only whole numbers.

*** 16. How many work weeks does it typically take to orient a new graduate therapist in your organization? A work week should be considered as 40 hours, answer with the number of weeks using whole numbers only.**

Weeks for Associate degree graduate?

Weeks for Baccalaureate degree graduate?

AARC 2015 Survey of Respiratory Therapy Department Directors

DIAGNOSTICS

The purpose of questions 17-25 is to evaluate how many competencies identified by the AARC Task Force on the Future of Respiratory Care will be needed by new graduates and other therapists working in your Department in 2015. See the special article published in Respiratory Care May 2010;55(5):601-616 for specific information on these competencies.

*** 17. Which of the following diagnostic competencies do you expect a new graduate and other staff therapists to need in 2015? Select all that apply.**

- Perform basic spirometry.
- Explain indications and contraindications for advanced pulmonary function tests.
- Explain indications and contraindications for sleep studies.
- Relate results of sleep studies to types of sleep disorders.
- Explain indications and contraindications, general hazards, and complications of bronchoscopy.
- Describe the bronchoscopy procedure and the respiratory therapist's role in assisting the physician.
- Evaluate monitoring of a patient's clinical condition with pulse oximetry, electrocardiogram, exhaled gas analysis, and other related devices.
- Perform arterial puncture and sampling, and blood analysis.

CHRONIC AND ACUTE DISEASE MANAGEMENT

* 18. Which of the following chronic and acute disease management competencies will a new graduate and other staff therapists to need in 2015? Select all that apply.

- Explain the etiology, anatomy, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of cardiopulmonary diseases (e.g., asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and comorbidities.
- Engage patients through communication and education and empowerment.
- Develop, administer, and re-evaluate the care plan for chronic disease management.
- Manage respiratory care plans in the acute-care setting, using evidence-based medicine, protocols, and clinical practice guidelines.

EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE AND RESPIRATORY CARE PROTOCOLS

* 19. Which of the following evidence-based and respiratory care protocols competencies will a new graduate and other staff therapists need in 2015? Select all that apply.

- Critique published research.
- Explain the meaning of general statistical tests.
- Apply evidence-based medicine to clinical practice.
- Explain the use of evidence-based medicine in the development and application of hospital-based respiratory care protocols.
- Treat patients in a variety of settings, using the appropriate respiratory care protocol.

ASSESSMENT

* **20. Which of the following patient assessment competencies will a new graduate and other staff therapists need in 2015? Select all that apply.**

- Complete a patient assessment through physical examination, chart review and other means as appropriate and interact with healthcare team members about assessment results.
- Obtain past medical, surgical and family history.
- Obtain social behavioral and occupational history and other historical information incident to the purpose of the current complaint.
- Interpret pulmonary function studies (spirometry).
- Interpret lung volumes and diffusion studies.
- Interpret arterial blood gases, electrolytes, complete blood cell count and related laboratory tests.
- Inspect the chest and extremities to detect deformation, cyanosis edema, clubbing and other anomalies.
- Measure vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, and respiratory rate).
- Evaluate patient breathing effort, ventilatory pattern, and use of accessory muscles.
- Document oxygen saturation oximetry measurements under all appropriate conditions (with or without oxygen at rest, during sleep, ambulation, and exercise).

LEADERSHIP

* 21. Which of the following leadership competencies will a new graduate and other staff therapists need in 2015? Select all that apply.

- Contribute to organizational teams as related to planning, collaborative decision making and other team functions.
- Describe fundamental/basic organizational implications of regulatory requirements on the healthcare system.
- Demonstrates effective written and verbal communications with various members of the healthcare team, patients, families, and others (cultural competence and literacy).
- Describe healthcare and financial reimbursement systems and the need to reduce the cost of delivering respiratory care.
- Lead groups in care planning, bedside decision making, and collaboration with other healthcare professionals.

EMERGENCY CARE

* 22. Which of the emergency care competencies will a new graduate and other staff therapists need in 2015? Select all that apply

- Perform basic life support (BLS).
- Perform advanced cardiovascular life support (ACLS).
- Perform pediatric advanced life support (PALS).
- Perform neonatal resuscitation program (NRP).
- Perform endotracheal intubation.
- Maintain current AHA certification in BLS and ACLS.
- Perform as a member of the Rapid Response Team (Medical Emergency Team).
- Participate in mass casualty staffing to provide airway management, manual and mechanical ventilatory life support, medical gas administration, aerosol delivery of bronchodilators and other agents in the resuscitation of respiratory and cardiovascular failure.
- Provide intra-hospital transport of critically and chronically ill patients, provide cardiopulmonary life support and airway control during transport.
- Recommend pharmacotherapy in clinical settings including emergencies.

CRITICAL CARE

* 23. Which of the following critical care competencies will a new graduate and other staff therapists need in 2015? Select all that apply.

- Apply invasive and noninvasive mechanical ventilation.
- Apply all ventilation modes currently available on all invasive and noninvasive mechanical ventilators as well as adjunct to mechanical ventilation.
- Interpret ventilator data and hemodynamic monitoring data, and calibrate monitoring devices.
- Manage airway devices and sophisticated monitoring systems.
- Make recommendations for treatment based on wave form graphics, pulmonary mechanics and related imaging studies.
- Use of therapeutic medical gases in the treatment of critically ill patients.
- Apply circulatory gas exchange systems in RT practice, e.g., ECMO.
- Participate in collaborative care management based on evidence-based protocols.
- Deliver therapeutic interventions based on protocol.
- Integrate the delivery of basic and/or advanced therapeutics in conjunction with or without the mechanical ventilator in the care of critically ill patients.
- Make recommendations, and provide treatment to critically ill patients based on pathophysiology.
- Recommend cardiovascular drugs based on knowledge, understanding of pharmacologic action.
- Use electronic data systems in their practice.

THERAPEUTICS

* 24. Which of the following therapeutic competencies will a new graduate and other staff therapists need in 2015? Select all that apply.

- Assess therapy.
- Assess a patient prior to therapy.
- Administer therapy.
- Evaluate therapy.

THERAPEUTIC APPLICATIONS

* 25. Which of the following therapeutic applications competencies will a new graduate and other staff therapists need in 2015? Select all that apply.

- Medical gas therapy
- Humidity therapy
- Aerosol therapy
- Hyperinflation therapy
- Bronchial hygiene therapy
- Airway management
- Mechanical ventilation

POST GRADUATE EDUCATION

26. How will your staff respiratory therapists acquire and document achievement of competencies that will be needed by the workforce in 2015? Select all that apply.

- Required yearly competency demonstration.
- Attendance at departmental inservices.
- Required yearly written examinations.
- Attendance at conferences and symposium.
- Other

Please specify "Other"

AARC 2015 Survey of Respiratory Therapy Department Directors

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PRACTICE

Assuming several of the new competencies described above are needed by your department, please respond to the following questions.

* **27. What credential should future graduates earn to enter the profession and meet the legal requirements of their state?**

RRT

CRT

Please explain your rationale.

* **28. What degree should future graduates be required to earn to be eligible for the examination they take to become licensed and enter practice as a respiratory therapist?**

Doctorate

Masters

Baccalaureate

Associate

Please explain your rationale.

29. What degree should future graduates be recommended to earn for continued practice beyond licensure and entry into practice as a respiratory therapist?

Doctorate

Masters

Baccalaureate

Associate

Please explain your rationale.

AARC 2015 Survey of Respiratory Therapy Department Directors

30. Should future graduates be required to maintain an active CRT or RRT credential to document competency for renewal of their license to practice in your state?

Yes

No

Please explain your rationale.

	5
	6

AARC 2015 Survey of Respiratory Therapy Department Directors

SUMMARY COMMENTS AND SURVEY SUBMITTAL

Thank you for taking time to complete this important survey. Use the text box below for additional comments on any of the survey questions.

IMPORTANT: Remember to click on the "DONE" button on the bottom of the last page to submit your survey.

31. Use the text box below for additional comments on any of the survey questions.