



## **Respiratory Therapy Clinical Goals and Objectives**

In addition to the Global Clinical Objectives, certain clinical experiences are best suited to the attainment of specific knowledge and skills. In this context, *Goals* are defined as competencies that the faculty feel would benefit the student if presented with the opportunity to experience them. *Objectives* are competencies that the student will be expected to obtain.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this rotation is to give students an opportunity to give students access to a large number of patients with respiratory diseases. Students are expected to take advantage of this opportunity to focus on development of assessment skills for respiratory patients.

**Goals:** It is the goal of the respiratory therapy rotations to expose students to as many patient assessment/management experiences as possible. These experiences may include, but are not limited to:

1. Operate oxygen delivery equipment and give oxygen.
2. Observe and assist with chest percussion.
3. Observe and assist with the monitoring and care of patients on mechanical ventilators.
4. Discuss with the preceptor types of ventilator systems in use on patients, including: mode, control settings, use of PEEP and CPAP, and appropriate responses to alarms.
5. Observe and assist in routine maintenance care of patients with tracheostomies.
6. Observe and assist with acquisition of arterial blood gas samples.
7. Observe lab values with special attention to PO<sub>2</sub>, PCO<sub>2</sub>, and pH values.
8. Observe and discuss with preceptor use of pulse oximeters, end tidal CO<sub>2</sub> monitors, and peak flow measurement.
9. Correlate lab values with patient condition and treatment plans.
10. Administer medications via small volume nebulizer.
11. Observe and assist with the use of pharmacologic agents used in the care of respiratory disease;
12. Perform sterile endotracheal suctioning to include auscultation of breath sounds before and after procedure.
13. Observe signs, symptoms, and care of patients with common respiratory diseases found in the prehospital setting, including: emphysema, chronic bronchitis, asthma, cardiogenic pulmonary edema, non-cardiogenic edema, and pneumonia.

**Objectives:** At a minimum, students will be expected to accomplish the following objectives during each respiratory therapy rotation:

1. Listen to and identify chest sounds to include rales, rhonchi, wheezes, and diminished breath sounds on every patient assessed.
2. Document at least 3 patient assessments to include the pathophysiology of the diagnosis, mechanism of action of any medications given, and a SOAP style report.