

# DACUM Competency Profile for Respiratory Therapist

**Produced For**

**Regional Health occupations Resource Center  
Los Angeles/Orange County Region**

Golden West College  
15744 Golden West Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
(714) 892-7711

**Regional Health occupations Resource Center  
San Diego/Desert Region**

Saddleback College  
28000 Marguerite Parkway  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692  
(714) 582-4451  
(800) 464-1778

**March 8-9, 1995**

*This report is made pursuant to contract/agreement number 94-0134. This project was supported by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act. Funds administered by the Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges.*

*"This activity which is the subject of this report was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education should be inferred."*

## **DACUM Panel Members**

David C. Velasco  
Respiratory Therapist  
Huntington Memorial Hospital

Christine Kaiser Nyman, RCP, BS  
Respiratory Care Practitioner  
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center

Mary Ann Stare  
Respiratory Therapist  
Huntington Memorial Hospital

Kenneth G. Strauss  
Respiratory Care Practitioner II  
Long Beach Community Hospital Medical  
Center

Ellen M. Fortney  
Respiratory Care Practitioner  
St. Jude Medical Center

Elizabeth Gilbert  
Respiratory Therapist  
United Western Medical Center

Candace Gubbins  
QA/ED Coordinator for Respiratory Services  
Fountain Valley Regional Hospital

Joel V. Boyd  
Respiratory Care Practitioner  
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center

Dennis P. Byars, Jr.  
Respiratory Care Practitioner  
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center

Kathleen Carron  
Registered Respiratory Therapist  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

## **DACUM Facilitator**

Joanne Gray, R.N., M.S.N.  
Project Coordinator  
Regional Health Occupations Resource  
Center  
San Diego/Desert Region

## **DACUM Coordinator**

Ann Tyree, R.N., M.S.N.  
Project Coordinator  
Regional Health Occupations Resource  
Center  
Los Angeles/Orange County Region

## **Facilitator Assistant**

Allan W. Ferguson  
Manager, Adult Respiratory Care Services  
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center

## **Golden West College**

Phillip Westin, Ed.D.  
President

## **Golden West College Board of Trustees**

Eric Warren, Student Trustee

Walter G. Howald

Nancy A. Pollard

Armando R. Ruiz

William M. Vega, Ed.D.  
Chancellor

Sherry L. Baum

Paul G. Berger

## **Saddleback College**

Dr. Ned Doffoney

President

**Saddleback Community College District Board of Trustees**

Harriett S. Walther

John S. Williams

José Jesus Caballero, Student Trustee

Teddi Lorch

Marcia Milchiker

Lee W. Rhodes

Robert A. Lombardi  
Chancellor

Steven J. Frogue

Joan Hueter

# DACUM Competency Profile for Respiratory Therapist

The Respiratory Care Practitioner is one who provides direct patient care and education through cardio-pulmonary assessment, implementation and evaluation of diagnostic and therapeutic modalities to achieve optimal homeostasis.

<b>Duties</b>		<b>Tasks</b>			
<b>A</b>	Perform Patient Assessment	A-1 Review Medical Record	A-2 Assess Lab values	A-3 Interpret ABG results	A-4 Assess Artificial Airway placement
		A-5 Perform Physical Assessment	A-6 Assess Psycho-Social needs	A-7 Perform Non-Invasive Monitoring	A-8 Evaluate data & recommend Therapeutic Modalities
<b>B</b>	Perform Therapeutic Modalities	B-1 Administer Medical Gases for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes - perform oxygen therapy	B-2 Administer respiratory related medications	B-3 Administer aerosol therapies	B-4 Perform IPPB (intermittent positive pressure breathing)
		B-5 Perform incentive spirometry	B-6 Administer chest Physio-Therapy	B-7 Maintain Artificial Airway	B-8 Administer Bipap/nasal CPAP
		B-9 Perform extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)	B-10 Assist with surfactant replacement in neo-nates	B-11 Assist with Hyperbaric Therapy	
<b>C</b>	Perform Diagnostic Modalities	C-1 Draw & analyze blood gas samples	C-2 Induce & collect sputum specimens	C-3 Perform EKG's	C-4 Place Holter Monitor
		C-5 Assist with Bronchoscopic Exam	C-6 Perform Pulmonary Function Testing	C-7 Perform Exercise Stress Tests	C-8 Perform Adult Sleep Studies
		C-9 Perform Neo-Natal/Ped Pneumograms	C-10 Perform Indirect Calorimetry		
<b>D</b>	Manage The Mechanically Ventilated Patient	D-1 Select appropriate modality/equip.	D-2 Initiate pressure cycled/volume - cycled/high - freq. ventilation	D-3 Stabilize acid-base balance and hemo dynamics	D-4 Perform clinical parameter studies
		D-5 Wean/modify mechanical ventilation according to assessment	D-6 Assist with or performs extubation		

**E**

Perform Administrative Duties

E-1 Receive/transcribe physician's orders	E-2 Document patient care	E-3 Contribute to patient care plan	E-4 Contribute to shift report
E-5 Maintain therapy log	E-6 Prepare charges	E-7 Participate in Quality Management	E-8 Schedule staff
E-9 Assign workloads			

**F**

Participate In Emergency Interventions

F-1 Performs CPR in emergent situations	F-2 Assist/perform intubation	F-3 Assist with ACLS transports	F-4 Assist with high risk deliveries
---	-------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------

**G**

Provide Patient/ Family Education

G-1 Instruct patient on use & purpose of respiratory procedures	G-2 Re-enforce patient teaching plan	G-3 Participate in Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program	G-4 Assist with discharge planning
G-5 Assist with community outreach			

**H**

Maintain Equipment

H-1 Clean & sterilize equipment	H-2 Assemble/test equipment	H-3 Calibrate equipment - perform quality control	H-4 Culture equipment
H-5 Evaluate/select new equipment	H-6 Order supplies/stock	H-7 Troubleshoot and perform minor repairs of equipment	

**I**

Maintain Professional Responsibilities

I-1 Maintain professional license	I-2 Participate in continuing education	I-3 Assist with teaching other health care professionals	I-4 Orient new employees
I-5 Serve on hospital committees	I-6 Participate in professional organizations		

### **Future Issues/Trends**

- High Technology
- Increase in Home Health Care
- Increased education
  - Age related specialization
  - Communication Skills
  - Expanded clinical practice
  - Healthcare economics
  - Teaching skills
- Increased role in healthcare industry
  - Asbestos studies
  - Health promotion through education
  - Occupational health
- Role clarification
- Team approach to patient care

### **General Knowledge and Skills**

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Basic Math (elem. algebra)
- Body Mechanics
- Chemistry
- Communication Skills
- Computer Skills - Basic
- CPR
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Fire, Electric, safety
- Hazardous Materials (OSHA Reg)
- Infection control
- Interpersonal skills
- Mechanical Aptitude
- Medical Terminology
- Microbiology
- Organizational skills
- Pharmacology
- Physics
- Psychology/social humanities
- Safety Precautions
- Stress management
- Teaching skills
- Telephone skills
- Typing skills
- Verbal, written skills

### **Tools, Equipment, Supplies and Materials**

- Aerosol equipment
- Air compressor
- Airways - nasal & oral
- Ambu bags
  - Adult
  - Neonate
  - Peds - self inflating, anesthesia
- Apnea monitor
- Bedside spirometer
- Blender oxygen air
- Bloodgas kits
- Bloodgas machine
- Bronchoscope & Lite source
- Cannulas
- Capillary catheters kits
- Christmas tree adapters

- Computer
- EKG machine
- ET tubes - tape - sutures (silk)
- Gloves
- Goggles
- Gowns
- Hand Held Nebulizer
- Humidifier
- Incentive spirometer
- IPPB Circuits - machine
- Manometers
- Masks
  - ETC oxygen monitor
  - Pulse oximeter
  - TCO2M
- Oxygen flowmeters
- Oxygen hoods
- Oxygen tents
- Penlight
- Percussor
- Pneumogard
- Pulmonary Function Testing Machine
- Regulators - cylinders - keys
- S.P.A.G. Small particle aerosol generator

- Sanitizing solutions
- Screw drivers'- asst.size
- Sputum trap
- Stethoscope
- Suction equipment
- Trachs
  - Buttons, Ties
  - Metal & Silicone
  - Plugs, Adapters
- Transporter
- Treadmill
- Ventilators - Adult & infant
  - Bedside pulm.func.
  - BiPAP
  - High frequency
  - Nasal CPAP - low flow flowmeter
  - Neg pressure vent.
  - Pressure
  - Volume
- Wright's spirometer

### **Worker Traits/Behavior**

- Able to communicate
- Assertive
- Compassionate
- Congenial
- Courteous
- Dependable
- Dexterous
- Empathetic
- Ethical
- Even-tempered
- Flexible
- Follow instructions
- Friendly

- Gentle
- Good coordination
- Good critical thinking
- Good eye sight
- Good health habits
- Good hearing ability
- Good observation traits
- Good organizational skills
- Good personal hygiene
- Good time management
- Hardworker
- Honest
- Innovative
- Integrity
- Maintain confidentiality
- Non-judgmental
- Nurturing
- Open minded
- Patient
- Physically fit
- Problem solver
- Professional
- Punctual
- Reliable
- Respectful
- Responsible
- Self confident
- Self control
- Self motivated
- Self starter
- Self sufficient
- Tactful
- Tactile skills
- Team player
- Tolerant
- Willing to learn

