

Pulmonary Diagnostics: Transfer of Function of Restricted Activities to Respiratory Therapists in the Pulmonary Function Lab (Respiratory Therapy)

Pulmonary Function Lab Sites:

Mount Saint Joseph Hospital

St. Paul's Hospital

Practice Level

Respiratory Therapist

Need to Know

Respiratory Therapists in British Columbia have an established professional competency based on the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) National Competency Framework. At the present time, Respiratory therapists do not have a regulatory college and although they practice to a professional standard outlined by the CSRT, they remain an unregulated profession. Accordingly, a policy document outlining the delegation of medical acts is required for procedures involving restricted activities as well as to meet accreditation requirements in pulmonary function as mandated by the British Columbia Diagnostic Accreditation Program.

Policy

This document serves as the approved list of restricted activities performed by Respiratory therapists in the Providence Health Care Pulmonary Function labs. These delegated medical acts fall under two categories:

- (1) Performing a procedure below the dermis for the purpose of obtaining blood for analysis (arterial blood gas sampling)
- (2) Administration of a drug by inhalation for the purpose of lung function diagnostic testing (bronchodilator administration; methacholine delivery)

Respiratory therapists perform arterial blood gas sampling under indirect-remote medical supervision from the Medical Director for Pulmonary Diagnostics. Arterial blood gas sampling may be performed while the patient is on or off supplemental oxygen, and for the purpose of respiratory diagnostics including as part of home oxygen assessments.

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Medication administration in the pulmonary function lab encompasses the administration of inhaled bronchodilators as well as nebulized methacholine for bronchial challenge testing. Respiratory therapists administer medication via inhalation under indirect-remote medical supervision from the Medical Director for Pulmonary Diagnostics.

The transfer of function for these restricted activities is accepted by the individual Respiratory therapist performing the activity through a signed acknowledgement of the delegation, as well as the completion of an annual competency assessment for each activity. A list of approved restricted activities as well as the individuals authorized to conduct them is maintained by the Professional Practice Leader for Respiratory Therapy. The competency of the Respiratory therapist performing these procedures is assessed on an annual basis (or sooner should the need arise due to extenuating circumstance) by the Medical Director or technical delegate. The Professional Practice Leader and/or Pulmonary Diagnostics Coordinator are identified as the technical delegate(s) for the Medical Director.

This document only establishes these procedures as delegated medical acts and does not represent any changes related to content or to performing these tests including, but not limited to, test indication, contraindications, and procedure steps. Specific policies and procedures have previously been established for these tests and can be accessed via the Shared Health Organizations Portal (SHOP) using the search term: Pulmonary Diagnostics.

Related Documents

[B-00-12-12116](#) - Pulmonary Diagnostics: Methacholine Challenge Testing (Bronchoprovocation) (Respiratory Therapy)

[B-00-12-12002](#) - Pulmonary Diagnostics: Bronchodilators: Administration and Disposal (Respiratory Therapy)

[B-00-12-12002](#) - Arterial Blood Gas Puncture – Radial, Brachial, Femoral (Respiratory Therapy)

References

College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia. Diagnostic Accreditation Program. Retrieved from <https://www.cpsbc.ca/programs/dap>

Definitions

Arterial blood gas sampling: The act of inserting a needle into an artery in order to obtain an arterial blood sample for diagnostic testing.

Methacholine challenge testing: The act of administering methacholine by inhalation as part of a pulmonary function test for the purpose of asthma diagnostic testing.

Drug administration by inhalation: The act of administering medication by inhalation (i.e. bronchodilator) via metered-dose inhaler, dosimeter, or nebulizer for the purpose of diagnostic testing or cardiorespiratory stabilization.

Effective Date:	30-SEP-2020
Posted Date:	25-NOV-2020
Last Revised:	25-NOV-2020
Last Reviewed:	
Approved By:	PHC Professional Practice Leader Respiratory Therapy Pulmonary Diagnostics Coordinator Medical Director, Pulmonary Diagnostics Medical Advisory Committee
Owners:	PHC Respiratory Therapy: Pulmonary Diagnostics

Appendix A: List of Delegated Medical Acts in the Pulmonary Function Lab and Roster of Respiratory Therapists Authorized to Perform Delegated Medical Acts



RESPIRATORY SERVICES - PULMONARY DIAGNOSTICS LIST of DELEGATED MEDICAL ACTS in PULMONARY FUNCTION LAB and ROSTER of RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS AUTHORIZED to PERFORM DELEGATED MEDICAL ACTS

List of Delegated Medical Acts in the Pulmonary Function Lab:

This document serves as the approved list of restricted activities performed by Respiratory therapists in the Providence Health Care Pulmonary Function labs. These delegated medical acts fall under two categories:

- (1) Performing a procedure below the dermis for the purpose of obtaining blood for analysis (arterial blood gas sampling)
- (2) Administration of a drug by inhalation for the purpose of lung function diagnostic testing (bronchodilator administration; methacholine delivery)

Roster of Respiratory Therapists Authorized to Perform Delegated Medical Acts:

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT DELEGATED MEDICAL ACTS	ABG SAMPLING		MEDICATION ADMIN	
	✓	DATE APPROVED	✓	DATE APPROVED
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				

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Appendix B: Respiratory Therapist Transfer of Function Record



**RESPIRATORY SERVICES - PULMONARY DIAGNOSTICS
RESPIRATORY THERAPIST TRANSFER OF FUNCTION RECORD**

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST (print): _____ DATE: _____

PRACTICE LEADER/DIAGNOSTICS COORDINATOR (print): _____

Arterial Blood Gas Sampling:

Acting in the role of technical delegate for the Medical Director for Pulmonary Diagnostics, I acknowledge that the named Respiratory therapist has demonstrated the necessary competency (knowledge, skills, and judgement) to safely perform **arterial blood gas sampling** as outlined in the Providence Health Care Pulmonary Diagnostics Competency Assessment and Validation Tool.

Practice Leader/Diagnostics Coordinator (signature): _____

I accept the transfer of function to perform **arterial blood gas sampling** and acknowledge

- I have attained the necessary competency.
- I am responsible to notify the physician and/or Professional Practice Leader/Pulmonary Diagnostics Coordinator if I have questions or require assistance.
- I am accountable to the physician and/or Professional Practice Leader/Pulmonary Diagnostics Coordinator for performing the activity and for reporting any inconsistencies that do not align with the approved procedure or plan of care.

Respiratory Therapist (signature): _____

Medication Administration by Inhalation:

Acting in the role of technical delegate for the Medical Director of Pulmonary Diagnostics, I acknowledge that the named Respiratory therapist has demonstrated the necessary competency (knowledge, skills, and judgement) to safely perform **medication administration by inhalation** as outlined in the Providence Health Care Pulmonary Diagnostics Competency Assessment and Validation Tool.

Practice Leader/Diagnostics Coordinator (signature): _____

I accept the transfer of function to perform **medication administration by inhalation** and acknowledge

- I have attained the necessary competency.
- I am responsible to notify the physician and/or Professional Practice Leader/Pulmonary Diagnostics Coordinator if I have questions or require assistance.
- I am accountable to the physician and/or Professional Practice Leader/Pulmonary Diagnostics Coordinator for performing the activity and for reporting any inconsistencies that do not align with the approved procedure or plan of care.

Respiratory Therapist (signature): _____

Approval:

Medical Director (print): _____

Medical Director (signature): _____

Approval Date: _____

Appendix C: Respiratory Therapist Competency Assessment and Validation Tool



RESPIRATORY SERVICES - PULMONARY DIAGNOSTICS RESPIRATORY THERAPIST COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT AND VALIDATION TOOL

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST (print): _____ DATE: _____

Arterial Blood Gas Sampling:

- ☐ Understands the indications, contraindications and complications of arterial punctures
- ☐ Select and use appropriate equipment in relation to the clinical situation
- ☐ Explain the procedure to the patient
- ☐ Performs arterial punctures & assesses for complications post-procedure
- ☐ Interprets blood gas analysis results & uses these to optimize therapy for patient
- ☐ Communicates effectively with the patient, family & the healthcare team

Medication Administration by Inhalation:

- ☐ Verify that the medication order or prescription is complete or that the patient meets inclusion criteria for use of protocol
- ☐ Assess appropriateness of the prescribed medication for the patient
- ☐ Verify patient has no known allergy or previous adverse response to the medication
- ☐ Perform dosage calculations
- ☐ Safely prepare medication following monograph and workplace hazard best practice guidelines
- ☐ Ensure proper labelling and handling of prepared medications and substances according to best practice standards
- ☐ Verify the right client, right medication or substance, right reason, right dose, right frequency, right route, right site, right time, and right documentation
- ☐ Administer medication or substance using the appropriate format, method of administration and proper technique
- ☐ Perform appropriate documentation of medication or substance administration
- ☐ Assess the patient's response and adjust dose or rate according to order or protocol
- ☐ Communicates effectively with the patient, family & the healthcare team

PHYSICIAN ASSESSOR/TECHNICAL DELEGATE (print): _____

PHYSICIAN ASSESSOR/TECHNICAL DELEGATE (signature): _____

DATE: _____