

Providence Health Care	Department: Respiratory Services	Date Originated: July 1995 Date Reviewed/Revised: April 2008
POLICY	Topic: <u>Critical Care</u> – Arterial Line Insertion (Radial) by Respiratory Therapists Number: B-00-11-12010	Related Links: B-00-12-12048

APPLICABLE SITES:

St. Paul's Hospital
Mount Saint Joseph Hospital

1. A Registered Respiratory Therapist who has successfully completed the PHC Arterial Line Insertion Training Program for Respiratory Therapists may perform radial arterial line insertions on the order of an Attending Physician.
2. The Registered Respiratory Therapist will maintain annual certification and complete the Continuing Competency requirements as per the guidelines of the Arterial Line Insertion Training Program.
3. For initial certification the Registered Respiratory Therapist must complete two (2) successful arterial line insertions that are directly supervised and observed by:
 - ICU Attending Physician
 - ICU Fellow
 - Anaesthetist
 - Respiratory Services Clinical Coordinator
 - Respiratory Services Clinical Site Coordinator
 - Respiratory Services Professional Practice Leader
 - Certified Respiratory Therapists as designated by the Respiratory Services Professional Practice Leader
4. To maintain certification and competency the Registered Respiratory Therapist must:
 - Demonstrate one (1) successful arterial line insertion within the first six months following initial certification.
 - Successfully insert two (2) arterial lines annually
 - Document and maintain an accurate personal competency log and record of arterial line insertions
5. A Registered Respiratory Therapist, who fails to maintain certification and competency including failure to document arterial line insertions, will be required to complete the Certification Program in its entirety.
6. Arterial Line Insertion may be performed by the Registered Respiratory Therapist in the following areas:

a. St. Paul's Hospital:

- i. Intensive Care Unit
- ii. Coronary Care Unit
- iii. Cardiac Surgical Intensive Care Unit
- iv. Emergency Department

b. **Mount Saint Joseph Hospital:**

- i. Intensive Care Unit
- ii. Emergency Department

NOTE: St. Paul's Hospital is a teaching facility and as such the Respiratory Therapist will assist Residents, students, and colleagues with learning and instructional opportunities prior to, during, and post arterial line insertion without compromising patient safety.

7. Arterial line insertion will not be attempted in the following circumstances:

- a. Marked bleeding disorders
- b. Absent collateral circulation
- c. Highly anticoagulated
- d. Limb with artificial arterial-venous fistula

ARTERIAL LINE INSERTION TRAINING PROGRAM FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS:

Competency Components:

Successful completion of the Arterial Line Insertion Training Program is achieved by:

- 1. Obtaining a minimum passing grade of 84% on the written examination.
- 2. Demonstration of satisfactory knowledge of the arterial line insertion procedure through supervised practical experience and discussion with a certified observer.
- 3. Completion of the required number of successful supervised arterial line insertions as demonstrated in this policy above.

Certification of Arterial Line Insertion is maintained annually by:

- 1. Demonstration of one (1) successful arterial line insertion within six (6) months of gaining certification.
- 2. Successful insertion of two (2) arterial lines annually as documented in this policy above.
- 3. Completion and maintenance of a personal Competency Log for all arterial line insertions, including failed attempts.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

TITLE: Professional Practice Leader, Respiratory Services