

WHO
ARE

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS?

[RTs]

RTs work in many places



Respiratory therapists (RTs) are important members of healthcare teams that provide care in hospitals, in clinics, in the community and in patients' homes.

RTs care for many people



RTs provide cardiorespiratory care for people of all ages and at all stages of life. They care for those who need respiratory support because they are critically ill or severely injured. RTs provide support for those with chronic heart and lung diseases, and for people who may require long-term respiratory care.

Ways RTs add value to healthcare



RTs play an important role in addressing key needs of our healthcare system, such as acute and chronic disease management and team-based primary care. They have unique skills and abilities that they use to provide safe, evidence-informed care to patients in complicated and often critical situations.

Ways that RTs help patients



Assess, perform medical tests, and provide a range of treatments for cardiorespiratory disease



Educate patients about lung health and the use of their breathing medication to help manage their own care



Provide airway and breathing support in ICUs, emergency rooms and operating rooms



Participate in research initiatives that help improve healthcare and quality of life

How to become an RT



RTs graduate from three- or four-year college or university programs that include theory, lab and clinical components. In most jurisdictions, passing a credentialing exam and/or licensure is required following graduation.



For more information on RTs, their role in the healthcare system or on becoming a respiratory therapist, contact the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists.

