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# BLUPRINT FOR RT PROFESSION LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014



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## **Pillar 1: The respiratory therapist is an advocate for the patient**

- The respiratory therapist embraces a patient-centered and holistic approach to care.
- The respiratory therapist takes a pro-active approach to the delivery of care.
- The respiratory therapist understands the business and economics of the Canadian health care system.
- The respiratory therapist helps patients understand and navigate the health care system.

## **Pillar 2: The respiratory therapist is committed to evidence-based practice**

- The respiratory therapist understands and applies clinical reasoning and critical thinking skills for the benefit of their patients.
- The respiratory therapist maintains up-to-date practice methods, techniques and approaches through a dedication to continuing education and ongoing professional development.
- The respiratory therapist leads and participates actively in research initiatives.

## **Pillar 3: The respiratory therapist is a well-respected health care professional**

- The respiratory therapist is regarded as a mentor, providing guidance and advice to patients, their families, to students and all members of the health care team.
- The skills, knowledge and scope-of-practice of the respiratory therapist are fully appreciated by key stakeholders including the employers, government, other health care professionals and the public.
- The respiratory therapist is regarded equally as a medical clinician and a technical expert.

#### **Pillar 4: The respiratory therapist is an active participant and supporter of interprofessional communication and collaboration**

- The respiratory therapist recognizes that a collaborative approach to patient care is fundamental in optimizing health outcomes. The respiratory therapist is a leader in this regard, facilitating communication among other professionals involved in the care of the patient.
- As a key member of a health care team, the respiratory therapist appreciates and understands the abilities and limitations of themselves and other team members.
- The respiratory therapist values the contributions of members of the health care team and seeks advice from others in order to realize the best possible patient outcomes.

#### **Pillar 5: The respiratory therapist practices in diverse settings**

- The practice of respiratory therapy will continue to expand into areas where the greatest possible benefits to patients can be realized.
- The respiratory therapist is involved in the provision of a continuum of care from critical care to acute care to home care as well as disease prevention and the education of patients.
- The respiratory therapist is involved in care throughout the life of a patient; from birth to end of life.

#### **Pillar 6: The respiratory therapist has the qualifications and education to meet the evolving demands of the health care system**

- Ongoing efforts are made to ensure that the educational background of the respiratory therapist is commensurate with the complexities of the ever-changing health care system.
- The Respiratory therapist has access to ongoing education in support of new technology and therapeutic practices.
- The respiratory therapist is directly involved in influencing resource and funding allocation models related to the provision of respiratory therapy in Canada.
- The respiratory therapist maintains knowledge and understanding of new developments, trends and changes in the health care system.

### **Pillar 7: The respiratory therapist is actively engaged in health promotion and wellness.**

- The respiratory therapist promotes health and wellness in the community and hospital settings. Improved patient education and preventative care helps to enhance the quality of life for patients.
- The respiratory therapist is a medical clinician exercising leadership and critical thinking based on evidence and research in the best interest of the patient.

### **Pillar 8: The respiratory therapist performs to their full scope of practice.**

- The knowledge and abilities of the respiratory therapist are well understood by employers and colleagues.
- The respiratory therapist's scope of practice is fully realized in the workplace allowing for outreach, education and treatment based on the specific needs of the patient.

### **Pillar 9: The respiratory therapist is the ambassador for the profession.**

- The respiratory therapist is a professional and an active and equal contributor in health care teams.
- The respiratory therapist works to promote a greater understanding of their profession and its essential role in the health care system.
- The respiratory therapist is committed to developing behaviours and language anchored in the underlying values of professionalism, continuous improvement and patient-centered care.
- The respiratory therapist understands their professional role, scope of practice and its place within health care teams and the system as a whole.