

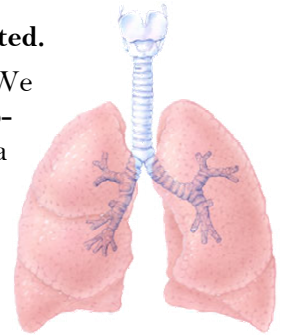
Respiratory Care

Take a Deep Breath.... But Don't Ever Take It For Granted.

For most of us, a deep breath is as easy as a sigh or yawn. We do it and never give it a thought. For a patient with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), every breath can be a struggle - shortness of breath can be a way of life.

COPD describes many diseases that can make normal breathing impossible. These diseases include; asthma, emphysema and bronchitis.

When patients with COPD find themselves in trouble, struggling for each and every breath, the sight of their respiratory therapist coming to their bedside with breathing equipment and medication can be enough to make them relax—just knowing that help has arrived.



What is a Respiratory Therapist?

A respiratory therapist is a specially trained, licensed professional who delivers treatment under the direction of a physician to patients of all ages that have difficulty breathing.

Treatment they provide at CMH

- Operate equipment to administer oxygen or assist with breathing.
- Operate mechanical ventilators for patients who cannot breath adequately on their own.
- Administer medications in aerosol form to help alleviate breathing problems.

Respiratory Care
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Where You Find Respiratory Therapists

- Intensive Care—operating mechanical ventilators to provide life support.
- Emergency Services—meeting the life squads to take over delivery of life-saving airway management and resuscitation procedures.
- Mother-Baby Care—to support the newborn's respiratory status after delivery.
- At the patient's bedside:
 - ▶ providing medications to open the patient's airways.
 - ▶ performing techniques or using airway clearance devices to assist the patient in clearing their airway of congestion.
 - ▶ administering and monitoring oxygen deliver systems to relieve the air-hunger of lung disease.
 - ▶ drawing arterial blood or performing pulse oximetry to assess the amount of oxygen in the blood.

You'll find a respiratory therapist anywhere you find a patient in need of help because of their difficulty with normal breathing.