



Scope of Practice & Maintenance of Competency

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Scope of Practice

Section 3 of the [Respiratory Therapy Act](#) (RTA) states:

The practice of respiratory therapy is the providing of oxygen therapy, cardio-respiratory equipment monitoring and the assessment and treatment of cardio-respiratory and associated disorders to maintain or restore ventilation.

It is important to note that the scope of practice of an individual practitioner (personal scope) is generally a subset of the overall scope of practice of a profession (professional scope). The professional scope of practice of Respiratory Therapy (RT) is founded on the [National Competency Framework](#), which is the basis of RT education in Canada. A Member's personal scope of practice begins with their education, but usually evolves over time as a result of their practice setting, clinical experience and demonstrated competencies.



Competency

The RTA also gives RTs the legislative authority to perform certain controlled acts [for more information, see the CRTO's [Interpretation of Authorized Acts](#) Professional Practice Guideline (PPG)]. **However, it is crucial to understand that having the authority to perform a procedure or treatment within one's scope of practice does not mean that it is appropriate to do so.** It is the responsibility of each individual RT to make a determination of competency before undertaking any aspect of patient care, and this expectation is articulated in the CRTO [Standards of Practice](#) document. The flow diagram on the following page can be used to help guide decisions as to whether performing a given task is appropriate.

Please note...

Having a means to verify competencies, such as learning packages, records of in-services, etc., is strongly encouraged.



When determining whether to perform a specific activity, Members should consider the following:

