



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

PROTECTED TITLES

Practice FAQs

April 2014

QUESTION

There is a group of health care providers at my workplace using the title “RT” but they are not Respiratory Therapists. Am I wrong in thinking that RT is a title reserved only for Respiratory Therapists?

ANSWER

You are correct. Respiratory Therapist is the professional title and RRT or RT is the abbreviated professional designation; both of which are protected in legislation. The following excerpt from the *Respiratory Therapy Act*, 1991 spells that out quite clearly:

Restricted titles [9. \(1\)](#) No person other than a member shall use the title “respiratory therapist”, a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language. 1991, c. 39, s. 9 (1); 1998, c. 18, Sched. G, s. 44 (2).

As such, Graduate Respiratory Therapist (GRT) and Practical Respiratory Therapist (PRT) are also titles and designations that are protected under the legislation.

The purpose of title protection is to ensure patients and their families are clear about who is providing their care. In the case of regulated professions, the designated title is an assurance of a certain level of education and training, standards of practice, ongoing professional development, and an avenue for raising concerns on quality of care. There is absolutely no benefit to the public if we create duplication of titles or any other activity that can cause confusion.