



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

EXTERNS

Practice FAQs

FEBRUARY 2022

QUESTION

Our hospital has hired third year RT student externs to assist with workload. Are they permitted to assist the RT's in authorized acts, such as administering Ventolin treatments or applying oxygen provided they have the knowledge to do so?

ANSWER

Externs are unregulated health care professionals, such as nursing or RT students, who work as part of the healthcare team. It is important to note that RT students who take part in these paid programs are doing so outside of their educational program, and not part of any clinical rotation. As a result, they may not perform controlled acts that are authorized to RT's, rather, they may assist with those tasks that fall under public domain (vital signs, patient turning or transporting). RT students, when working as externs, are not permitted to introduce themselves, or hold themselves out to be a student Respiratory Therapist.