



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

HIRING RT STUDENTS FOR THE SUMMER

Practice FAQs

March 2015

QUESTION

Can I hire student RTs to work during the summer months in our pulmonary function lab?

ANSWER

Yes, it is permissible to hire a Student Respiratory Therapist (SRT) while they are on their summer vacation. However, it is important to understand that SRTs are not Members of the College of Respiratory Therapy of Ontario (CRTO) and do not practise under the authority of the [Respiratory Therapy Act](#) (RTA), or any of its regulations. Instead, SRTs are permitted to perform controlled acts authorized to Respiratory Therapists via an exception in the [Regulated Health Professions Act](#), which states that they can do so as long as they are:

29 (1) (b) *fulfilling the requirements to become a member of a health profession and the act is within the scope of practice of the profession and is done under the supervision or direction of a member of the profession.*

This means that SRTs can perform controlled acts like “*administering a substance by injection or inhalation*” [RTA, s.4(4)] only when it is part of their formal education program (i.e., during clinical rotations). If a student in an RT program wanted to perform a controlled act outside of their regular school hours (e.g. evenings, weekends, or during the summer holidays), then they would first require the act be delegated to them. In addition, a student cannot identify themselves as an SRT or “Student Respiratory Therapist” when they are working outside of their scheduled educational hours.