



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

GRADUATE MEMBERS

Practice FAQs

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QUESTION

As a graduate RT (GRT), I can perform Controlled Act #4 of the *Respiratory Therapy Act (RTA)* (“*administering a substance by injection or inhalation*”), yet I cannot perform #5 (“*administering a prescribed substance by inhalation*”). I do not understand the difference. Am I permitted to give Ventolin MDI?

ANSWER

Authorized act #5 is referring **specifically to the independent administration of oxygen without the requirement of an order**. It is a controlled act unique to RT's, and only Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) are permitted to perform under legislation. GRT's and PRT's are not.

Administering an MDI would fall under Act #4, (“*administering a substance by injection or inhalation*”), which, as a GRT you are permitted to do provided you have an order/medical directive. This category also includes liquids, powders, aerosols, gases (including oxygen), and vapours, along with the injection of IM, IV, subcutaneous substances, that fall in your professional scope.

Depending on the workplace, an RRT can independently initiate, titrate or discontinue oxygen without an order from an authorized prescriber. However, this typically only applies outside of a hospital setting (i.e., home care) because the Public Hospitals Act states that anything performed within a hospital requires an order. Here is our guideline on Interpretation of Authorized Acts: [Interpretation of Authorized Acts PPG \(crto.on.ca\)](https://www.crto.on.ca/interpretation-of-authorized-acts)