

COLLEGE OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS OF ONTARIO

TITLE:	Supervision
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Policy

Members of the CRTO may be required to perform authorized acts under **supervision** according to terms, conditions and limitations (TCLs) applied to their certificates of registration. Consider the following examples:

1. A graduate member (GRT) "may only perform a controlled act, authorized to respiratory therapy, if performed under the **general supervision** of a regulated health professional who is authorized to perform the controlled act and available within 10 minutes."
2. Direct supervision is required if a panel of the Registration Committee imposes the condition that an RRT "may only perform a controlled act, authorized to Respiratory Therapy, for the purpose of gaining competence in that procedure if performed under the **direct supervision** of a regulated health professional who is authorized to perform the controlled act."
3. Although students are not members of the CRTO, according to an exception in RHPA (section 29), they are permitted to perform authorized acts under the **supervision or direction** of a member of the profession while fulfilling the requirements to become a member of that health profession.

Supervision may be **direct or indirect**.

An example of **direct supervision** would be a supervising RRT, physically observing and guiding the performance of arterial blood gas procurement by a RRT with the TCL as outlined in example 2.

An example of **indirect (general) supervision** would be a GRT applying CPAP to a new patient/client while the supervising RRT is available in person within 10 minutes, to assist the procedure.

The degree or type of supervision deemed necessary is in part the professional responsibility and judgment of the member who is providing the supervision or direction required. As a full member¹ of the College the supervisor also assumes some responsibilities as an educator. However, a member who is practising Respiratory Therapy (including controlled acts) is accountable for their practice and adhering to the TCLs imposed on their certificate of registration. Students are also accountable for their practice and to their academic program.

¹ Full member who holds a General Certificate of Registration without any terms, conditions or limitations

Direct Supervision and Documentation

Where a student or member is performing procedures under **direct supervision**, the member or student must document in the patient/client's health record that they have performed the procedure(s) under "direct supervision". It is the responsibility of the member or student carrying out the procedure(s) to ensure complete documentation of the patient contact in the patient/client record. This includes having the supervisor cosign the entry in the patient/client record. Remember that anyone reading the documentation must clearly be able to identify that the requirements of "direct supervision" have been met. Also, keep in mind that the member/student's signature and that of the cosigning supervisor's verifies the information provided and gives assurance that the record of the activity, assessment, behaviour or procedure is accurate and complete.

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