



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

CAN I TREAT A FAMILY MEMBER

Practice FAQs

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QUESTION

I work at the only acute care hospital in our city and we work sole charge at nights. My brother-in-law is now on a ventilator in ICU. Am I permitted to look after him?

ANSWER

Providing care to a member of one's own family is never an optimal situation, and should not be undertaken if other options are available. However, the CRTO recognizes that there are times when providing RT services to a family member is unavoidable. If the family member requires the services of a Respiratory Therapist and there is no one else available, then the RRT must act in the best interest of the patient. If they decide to provide care, they need to be sure to document the potential conflict of interest. Also, it is essential that the RRT do everything in their power to transfer care to another RRT or equivalent practitioner as soon as possible and as appropriate.