



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

RESPIRATORY THERAPY ACTIVITIES

Practice FAQs

February 2013

There are many new Respiratory Therapy activities listed on the renewal form this year! I have a few questions...

QUESTION

What does the activity “Oximetry testing for purpose of 5th Act (COMMUNITY)” mean?

ANSWER

The 5th Act allows RTs to independently administer oxygen, without the requirement of an order from another healthcare professional. This may currently occur in a community setting, provided it has been enabled by employer policies and other relevant legislation.

QUESTION

I need help to answer the question about performing controlled acts in an Emergency.

ANSWER

The emergency exception as listed in the RHPA is:

“Giving first aid or temporary assistance in an emergency. You may perform a controlled act in giving first aid provided you have the competency (knowledge, skills and judgment) to perform the procedure.”

While the term “emergency” is not specifically defined, it would include circumstances where action is immediately required to prevent death or serious physical harm.

The Health Care Consent Act also supports intervention in emergencies by removing the usual requirement for consent in most circumstances. Thus, if a Respiratory Therapist faces an emergency situation, he or she should not let fear of prosecution for performing a controlled act hinder his or her response.



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The College encourages Respiratory Therapists and their employers who face emergencies on a regular basis to proactively develop policies and procedures, guidelines, processes for delegation and medical directives to help guide their response. These documents may also serve to provide evidence of competency training and ongoing quality assurance to support the practice of Respiratory Therapists in emergent situations.

Please do not hesitate to [contact the College](#) directly should you have any additional questions.

Did you know . . .

- There is a **Renewal Guide** that complements the **Renewal Form**? [Click here](#).
- The Quality Assurance cycle begins in January?
 - Now is a good time *Take a Moment...* and get organized!
 - Login to your *PORTfolio* and reflect on any professional development you may wish to participate in this year and set some learning goals! [Click here](#).