



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

Message from the CRTO to Graduate Respiratory Therapists (GRTs) Working in a Healthcare Setting During the Pandemic

We are all very excited about the new GRTs who are heading out to lend a hand during this pandemic outbreak. Your up-to-date knowledge, energy, and enthusiasm will undoubtedly be an asset to the RRTs and other health care professionals you will be working alongside.

It is a good time now to review the **parameter of your GRT certificate of registration**. To begin with, you must inform your employer that you are working under a GRT certificate of registration and ensure that they understand the limitation of your designation, which are as follows:

- You **may only perform controlled acts that authorized to Respiratory Therapists** if it is performed under the [general supervision](#) of a Regulated Health Care Professional (RHCP) who is authorized to perform the act (e.g., an RRT, MD, NP or RN). Please note the RHCP providing the supervision must be available to provide direct assistance to you, if required, within 10 minutes
- You **may not delegate** a controlled act to another RHCP or Non-Regulated Health Care Professional (NRHCP)
- You **may not receive delegation** for a controlled act not authorized to Respiratory Therapists
- You **may not perform Advanced Prescribed Procedures below the Dermis** ([Interpretation of Authorized Acts](#) Professional Practice Guideline (PPG) p. 7)
 - However, as a GRT, you are permitted to perform Basis Procedures below the Dermis, such as:
 - Arterial blood gases
 - Venous & capillary gases
 - Arterial line insertion
 - Peripheral IV insertion
- You **may not perform authorized act #5 “administering a prescribed substance by inhalation”** (which involves the independent initiation, titration and discontinuation of oxygen without the requirement of an order)
 - However, as a GRT, you are permitted - under authorized act #4 “*administering a substance by injection or inhalation*” - to perform the following, provided you have a valid order:
 - Administer intravascular, intramuscular, intradermal & sub-cutaneous injections
 - Administer inhaled gases & medications



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- Initiate and manage invasive and non-invasive mechanical ventilation
- **You may not perform a tracheostomy tube change for a stoma that is less than 24 hours old**
 - However, as a GRT, you are permitted to perform a tracheostomy tube change for a stoma that is greater than 24 hours old

If you have any questions about this or any other professional practice issue, please contact Carole Hamp RRT, Manager of Quality Practice at hamp@crto.on.ca.