



Ted Kulongoski  
Governor

# OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

700 Summer Street NE • Suite 320 • Salem, Oregon 97301-1287

☎ 503-378-8667

503-370-9004 FAX

503-373-2114 TTY

✉ [ohla.info@state.or.us](mailto:ohla.info@state.or.us)

🌐 [www.oregon.gov/OHLA](http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA)

## Respiratory Therapists

### Respiratory Therapists

Respiratory therapists, or respiratory care practitioners, treat patients with abnormalities associated with the cardiopulmonary system—or breathing disorders—under the direction of a licensed physician and as part of a health care team.

Respiratory therapists administer therapeutic or diagnostic drugs to patients as part of a physician-prescribed treatment plan, implement a physician's orders for respiratory treatments, observe and monitor patient symptoms, and assist with administering medical gases (including hyperbaric or standard oxygen, vapor therapies and ventilation support). Administration of anesthesia falls outside the scope of practice of a respiratory therapist.



Respiratory therapists work at hospitals, clinics, nursing care facilities, in private care facilities and commercial businesses that specialize in the treatment, management, diagnostic testing, control and care of patients with breathing disorders that range from chronic lung conditions such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema to heart attack and accident victims, premature infants, and people with cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, or AIDS.

#### Qualifications

- Applicants must complete a minimum of a two-year education in a post-secondary educational institution accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, or its successors, or recognized by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC).
- Applicants must pass the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) or Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) examination administered by the NBRC.
- Applicants currently licensed to practice respiratory care in another state, territory or country may become licensed in Oregon if their qualifications are considered to be equivalent to Oregon's minimum standards.

**Continuing Education:** Licensees must complete 15 clock hours, either as one unit or a combination of units, not less than one hour each, during the two years immediately preceding the date for renewal.

**Authorizing Laws & Rules:** This program exists under the regulatory oversight of the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA). Respiratory Therapist Licensing Board profession-specific statutes (ORS 688.808-688.840 and 688.995) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 700-730) link to OHLA's overarching statutes (ORS 676.600-992) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 1-30) for all OHLA-regulated professions.

For more information, visit [www.oregon.gov/OHLA/RT](http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA/RT)