

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

DRIVEN

INSPIRED

SKILLED



The Best Care



Department of
Veterans Affairs

An Equal Opportunity Employer

VA CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

VA – The career you want, the future you deserve



*To Care for Those Who Shall
Have Borne the Battle ...*

- Abraham Lincoln, March 1865

WHY VA?

★ THE BEST CARE

VA – Keeping the Promise to Those Who Served

More than a century ago, President Lincoln made a promise to America's servicemen and women, pledging the care and concern of a grateful Nation for the sacrifices they made to preserve freedom. Since 1930, the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has kept that promise. Today, VA offers veterans one of the largest, most comprehensive health care systems in the United States with 157 medical centers, almost 900 ambulatory and community-based outpatient clinics, 134 nursing homes, and many other facilities, such as domiciliaries and readjustment counseling centers.

★ THE BEST EMPLOYMENT

VA and Respiratory Therapy

Certified and Registered Respiratory Therapists are valuable members of the VA team – both in and out of the hospital environment. As members of an interdisciplinary team, respiratory therapists work to provide exceptional care to our Nation's veterans. In return, VA offers the chance to work with the finest medical professionals while earning a competitive salary and an exceptional benefits package. As part of one of America's largest health care systems, respiratory therapists have a virtual pick of their workplaces. By becoming a VA respiratory therapist, you're not just helping heal the sick – you're helping VA keep the promise to those who served.

Urban Beat

Modern living doesn't get any better than when you live in urban America. VA offers employment opportunities in the most cosmopolitan of cities to America's most livable small towns.



OPPORTUNITIES

OFFERING A WIDE RANGE OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

As the largest integrated health care system in the country, VA offers respiratory therapists a multitude of opportunities across the continuum of care. Respiratory therapists are needed for acute and critical care, as well as for work with special populations, such as spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and rehabilitation.

VA respiratory therapists work hand-in-hand with a team of medical professionals, including physicians, nurses, dietitians, social workers, and pastoral care providers, to determine the best care for the patient. As part of VA, you will work with the latest in respiratory therapy technology.

With the variety of patient needs in VA hospitals, respiratory therapists are required to carry out many different duties throughout the course of the day. Your skills will be put to use as you perform such tasks as:

- Critical care ventilator management
- Intubation and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
- Pulse oximetry
- Lung expansion and secretion clearance therapies
- Arterial blood gas analysis
- Pre-operative spirometry
- Oxygen therapy evaluations
- Exercise testing and evaluation
- Emergent oxygen delivery
- Spinal cord injury and rehabilitation respiratory care
- Cardiac stress testing
- Sleep lab



“I enjoy working as a team member in the ICUs where my voice as a professional is heard. We are a critical component in improving the quality of life for veterans.”

—Lori Anttila
RRT, RCP, Long Beach

Did you know that VA:

- ★ Employs more than 1,700 respiratory therapists
- ★ Provides inpatient care to about 600,000 veterans and manages more than 50 million outpatient visits each year through its medical centers and supporting facilities
- ★ Has facilities in all 50 states, U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia
- ★ Offers other training, including cooperative education, for a variety of health care disciplines through affiliations with undergraduate and graduate programs at numerous colleges and universities
- ★ Is committed to improving patient care through the use of technology, including an electronic health record (EHR), wireless technology, Bar Code Medication Administration system, and more
- ★ Provides medical care backup to military hospitals during national emergencies
- ★ Operates command centers to coordinate services through the National Disaster Medical Service during major disasters





BENEFITS

VA's mission is to provide the best possible care for America's veterans. In return for helping VA achieve this goal, VA offers extensive employment benefits.

LEAVE AND HOLIDAYS

- VA respiratory therapists earn 13 to 26 days of paid annual (vacation/personal) leave each year, depending on years of service.
- Respiratory therapists earn 13 days paid sick leave each year.
- There are 10 paid Federal holidays.
- The Family and Medical Leave Act and the Family Friendly Leave Act allows employees to balance their work and family lives by taking reasonable amounts of leave for medical reasons, for the birth or adoption/foster care of a child, and for the care of a child, spouse, or parent who has a serious health problem.
- The Voluntary Leave Transfer Program allows other Federal employees to donate annual leave for a medical emergency of an employee or family member.
- Military leave is authorized up to 15 days a year for active reservists and National Guard members.

HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE

- VA offers a choice of group health insurance plans with premiums partially paid by the Federal Government. Insurance may become effective as soon as the first full pay period after beginning duty.
- Term life insurance, family, and additional coverage options are available with the cost shared by the Federal Government.
- Long-term care insurance is available as an option.

“VA encouraged me to fulfill my educational dreams and gave me a pathway to do it. I completed my master’s in Health Education after a few years of service, and the opportunities have been endless since then.”

— Ramona C. Williams
MS, RRT, RCP, Houston



Coastal Living

Hot sun, sandy beaches, and great times with friends – all are yours when you live near the coast. Choose a VA facility near the West Coast or East Coast and all your downtime can be beach time.





LIABILITY PROTECTION

The United States Government accepts responsibility and liability for the actions of its employees during the exercise of their official duties. VA respiratory therapists, therefore, are protected by the Federal Government in instances of alleged malpractice or negligence resulting from the performance of their duties in or for the Veterans Health Administration.

RETIREMENT

Newly hired respiratory therapists are covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). FERS is a three-tier retirement plan composed of Social Security benefits, FERS basic benefits, and the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Similar to the 401(k) savings plans widely available in the private sector, the TSP allows employees to tax defer as much as 15 percent of their income each year, subject to the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. The Federal Government also provides a basic contribution and matching, depending on the amount of the employee contribution. For retired military personnel, these benefits are in addition to your full monthly retirement pay or pension. Retirement health care insurance is also available.

MOBILITY

VA health care facilities are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. An employee may seek employment at any location where there is a vacancy and if hired, transfer without loss of benefits and usually no loss in pay. Only one active state license is necessary to practice in any VA facility.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- Smoke-free and drug-free workplace
- Free parking at most facilities
- Credit unions
- Childcare at some facilities
- Flexible Spending Accounts

EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes the importance of ongoing education and the benefit it provides to both veteran patients and employees. VA encourages career development for its respiratory therapists through the following programs:

Tuition Support Program – Employees in health care disciplines identified as VA shortage categories may be eligible for funding to enroll in job-related courses, continuing education courses, and conferences.

Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP) – Through EDRP, VA may provide educational loan repayment assistance to newly hired VA health care employees. The loan(s) must be for courses that led directly to qualifying for the hired position.

Employee Incentive Scholarship Program (EISP) – This scholarship program allows VHA employees to further their education and obtain degrees qualifying them for health care positions for which recruitment and retention is difficult.

Upward Mobility Training Programs – These programs offer, on a competitive basis, opportunities to advance to higher-level positions.

In-Service Education Programs – These programs are offered locally and through the VA Employee Education System (EES).

Tuition Reimbursement Program – Full-time VA employees enrolled in any accredited respiratory therapy program may be eligible for tuition reimbursement. Prerequisite courses required for acceptance into a degree program are also funded.



PERSONNEL POLICIES

QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum qualifications for employment as a VA respiratory therapist are:

- U.S. citizenship (non-citizens may be hired on a temporary basis when qualified citizens are not available)
- Certification as a CRT from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) and a registry number or a certificate from another body recognized by the NBRC as its crediting equivalent*
- Personal interview
- Satisfactory physical examination (may include drug screening)
- English language proficiency

**This includes registration based on either (a) having fulfilled the requirements and passed the registry examination administered by the NBRC since 1983, or (b) having fulfilled the requirements and passed the registration examination for a registered inhalation or respiratory therapist administered by the (1) National Board for Respiratory Therapy from July 1974 through 1982 or (2) American Registry of Inhalation Therapists from 1961 through June 1974.*

SALARY INFORMATION

- Starting salaries and pay grades for VA respiratory therapists are determined by the duties of the position and the nature and extent of professional education, training, and experience.
- Special beginning rates or special salary rate ranges are in effect at many VA facility locations.
- Respiratory therapists receive regular salary increases within each grade based on performance. Accelerated increases for outstanding performance or achievement may also be available.
- Respiratory therapists are also periodically considered for promotion to higher grades with correspondingly higher salaries.
- VA offers premium pay for overtime, on-call, night, Saturday, Sunday, and holiday duty. Amounts and percentages may vary, depending on location.

The Heartland Choice

Snow-covered mountains in winter, sun-soaked prairies in summer – the Midwest is a nature lover's dream. Working for VA, you have a broad choice of locations in the Nation's heartland.





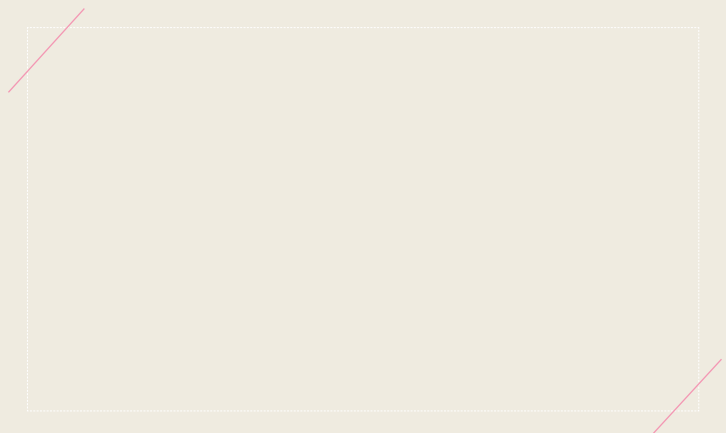
“With more than 25 years experience as an RCP, I have spent the last 10 years serving our Nation’s veterans. VA offers many exciting avenues to practice respiratory care: critical care, pulmonary diagnostics, sleep medicine, and home care are just a few. As the Home Oxygen Program Coordinator at the Baltimore VAMC, I truly practice respiratory care. Seeing patients in clinics allows me to put my clinical experience to work by providing the best home respiratory care to our vets.”

*— Preston Eric Keeler
RRT, RPFT, RCP, Baltimore*

HOW TO APPLY

Apply directly to the Human Resources Management Office at the VA health care facility where you desire employment consideration. Hiring decisions are made locally. However, information about VA respiratory therapy programs and application procedures may be obtained from any VA facility. Arrangements can be made for the required personal interview and physical examination to be conducted at the facility most convenient to you.

Employment information can also be obtained by contacting the Department of Veterans Affairs, Placement Service, 1555 Poydras Street, Suite 1971, New Orleans, LA 70112. The toll-free number is **1-800-949-0002**. Employment information can also be found on the Internet at **www.vacareers.va.gov**.



VA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

To gain a first-hand view of VA health care, you are invited and encouraged to visit any of our VA Medical Centers or ambulatory and community-based outpatient clinics. Please call or write to arrange an appointment.

Telephone numbers are listed below for each medical center. Also, telephone numbers are listed for every VA facility in local telephone directories under "U.S. Government."

You can also address correspondence to:
Human Resource Management Service, VA Medical Center,
[City, State, ZIP Code] (listed below).

ALABAMA

Birmingham (35233)
205-933-8101
Montgomery (36109)
334-272-4670
Tuscaloosa (35404)
205-554-2000
Tuskegee (36083)
334-727-0550

ALASKA

Anchorage (99508)
907-257-4700

ARIZONA

Phoenix (85012)
602-277-5551
Prescott (86313)
928-445-4860
Tucson (85723)
520-792-1450

ARKANSAS

Fayetteville (72703)
479-443-4301
Little Rock - Towbin (72114)
501-257-1000
Little Rock - McClellan (72205)
501-257-1000

CALIFORNIA

Fresno (93703)
559-225-6100
Livermore (94550)
925-477-2560
Loma Linda (92357)
909-825-7084
Long Beach (90822)
562-826-8000
Los Angeles (90073)
310-478-3711
Martinez (94553)
925-372-2000
Menlo Park (94025)
650-493-5000
Palo Alto (94304)
650-493-5000
San Diego (92161)
858-552-8585
San Francisco (94121)
415-221-4810

COLORADO

Denver (80220)
303-399-8020
Grand Junction (81501)
970-242-0731

CONNECTICUT

Newington (06111)
860-666-6951
West Haven (06516)
203-932-5711

DELAWARE

Wilmington (19805)
302-994-2511

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington (20422)
202-745-8000

FLORIDA

Bay Pines (33744)
727-398-6661
Gainesville (32608)
352-376-1611
Lake City (32025)
386-755-3016
Miami (33125)
305-575-7000
Tampa (33612)
813-972-2000
West Palm Beach (33410)
561-882-8262

GEORGIA

Augusta (30904)
706-733-0188
Decatur (30033)
404-321-6111
Dublin (31021)
478-272-1210

HAWAII

Honolulu (96819)
808-433-1000

IDAHO

Boise (83702)
208-422-1000

ILLINOIS

Chicago (60612)
312-569-8387
Chicago - North (60064)
847-688-1900
Danville (61832)
217-554-3000
Hines (60141)
708-202-8387
Marion (62959)
618-997-5311

INDIANA

Fort Wayne (46805)
260-426-5431
Indianapolis (46202)
317-554-0000
Marion (46953)
765-674-3321

IOWA

Des Moines (50310)
515-699-5999
Iowa City (52246)
319-338-0581
Knoxville (50138)
641-842-3101

KANSAS

Leavenworth (66048)
913-682-2000
Topeka (66622)
785-350-3111
Wichita (67218)
316-685-2221

KENTUCKY

Lexington (40502)
859-233-4511
Louisville (40206)
502-895-3401

LOUISIANA

Alexandria (71306)
318-473-0010
New Orleans (70112)
504-568-0811
Shreveport (71101)
918-221-8411

MAINE

Augusta (04330)
207-623-8411

MARYLAND

Baltimore (21201)
410-605-7000
Perry Point (21902)
410-642-2411

MASSACHUSETTS

Bedford (01730)
781-678-2000
Brockton (02301)
508-583-4500
Jamaica Plain (02130)
617-232-9500
Leeds (01053)
413-584-4040
West Roxbury (02132)
617-323-7700

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor (48105)
734-769-7100
Battle Creek (49015)
616-966-5600
Detroit (48201)
313-576-1000
Iron Mountain (49801)
906-774-3300
Saginaw (48602)
989-497-2500

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis (55417)
612-725-2000
St. Cloud (56303)
320-252-1670

MISSISSIPPI

Biloxi (39531)
228-523-5000
Jackson (39216)
601-362-4471

MISSOURI

Columbia (65201)
573-814-6000
Kansas City (64128)
816-861-4700
Poplar Bluff (63901)
573-686-4151
St. Louis (63125)
314-652-4100

MONTANA

Fort Harrison (59636)
406-442-6410

NEBRASKA

Grand Island (68803)
308-382-3660
Lincoln (68510)
402-489-3802
Omaha (68105)
402-346-8800

NEVADA

Las Vegas - North (89036)
702-636-3000
Reno (89520)
702-786-7200

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Manchester (03104)
603-624-4366

NEW JERSEY

East Orange (07018)
973-676-1000
Lyons (07939)
908-647-0180

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque (87108)
505-265-1711

NEW YORK

Albany (12208)
518-626-5000
Bath (14810)
607-664-4000
Bronx (10468)
718-584-9000
Brooklyn (11209)
718-836-6600
Buffalo (14215)
716-834-9200
Canandaigua (14424)
585-394-2000
Castle Point (12511)
914-831-2000
Montrose (10548)
914-737-4400
New York (10010)
212-686-7500
Northport (11768)
631-261-4400
St. Albans (11425)
718-526-1000
Syracuse (13210)
315-425-4400

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville (28805)
828-298-7911
Durham (27705)
919-286-0411
Fayetteville (28301)
910-488-2120
Salisbury (28144)
704-638-9000

NORTH DAKOTA

Fargo (58104)
701-232-3241

OHIO

Cincinnati (45220)
513-861-3100
Chillicothe (45601)
740-773-1141
Cleveland (44106)
216-791-3800
Columbus (43203)
614-257-5200
Dayton (45428)
937-268-6511

OKLAHOMA

Muskogee (74401)
918-683-3261
Oklahoma City (73104)
405-270-0501

OREGON

Portland (97207)
503-220-8262
Roseburg (97470)
541-440-1000
White City (97503)
541-826-2111

PENNSYLVANIA

Altoona (16602)
814-943-8164
Butler (16001)
724-287-4781
Coatesville (19320)
610-384-7711
Erie (16504)
814-868-8661
Lebanon (17042)
717-272-6621
Philadelphia (19104)
215-823-5800
Pittsburgh - Heinz Center (15215)
800-309-8398
Pittsburgh - Highland Drive (15206)
800-647-6220
Pittsburgh - University Drive (15240)
866-482-7488
Wilkes-Barre (18711)
877-928-2621

PHILIPPINES

Manila (96515) (FPO AP)
011-632-833-4566

PUERTO RICO

San Juan (00921)
787-641-7582

RHODE ISLAND

Providence (02908)
401-273-7100

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston (29401)
843-577-5011
Columbia (29209)
803-776-4000

SOUTH DAKOTA

Fort Meade (57741)
605-347-2511
Hot Springs (57747)
605-745-2000
Sioux Falls (57117)
605-336-3230

TENNESSEE

Memphis (38104)
901-523-8990
Mountain Home (37684)
423-926-1171
Murfreesboro (37129)
615-867-6000
Nashville (37212)
615-327-4751

TEXAS

Amarillo (79106)
806-355-9703
Big Spring (79720)
432-263-7361
Bonham (75418)
903-583-2111
Dallas (75216)
214-742-8387
El Paso (79930)
915-564-6100
Houston (77030)
713-791-1414
Kerrville (78028)
210-896-2020
Marlin (76661)
254-883-3551
San Antonio (78229)
210-617-5300
Temple (76504)
254-778-4811
Waco (76711)
254-752-6581

UTAH

Salt Lake City (84148)
801-582-1565

VERMONT

White River Junction (05009)
802-295-9363

VIRGINIA

Hampton (23667)
757-722-9961
Richmond (23249)
804-675-5000
Salem (24153)
540-982-2463

WASHINGTON

Seattle (98108)
206-762-1010
Spokane (99205)
509-434-7000
Tacoma (98493)
253-582-8440
Walla Walla (99362)
509-525-5200

WEST VIRGINIA

Beckley (25801)
304-255-2121
Clarksburg (26301)
304-623-3461
Huntington (25704)
304-429-6755
Martinsburg (25401)
304-263-0811

WISCONSIN

Madison (53705)
608-256-1901
Milwaukee (53295)
414-384-2000
Tomah (54660)
608-372-3971

WYOMING

Cheyenne (82001)
307-778-7550
Sheridan (82801)
307-672-3473