




 Credential Maintenance Program Respiratory Therapist Assessment Detailed Content Outline <i>Items are linked to open cells.</i> *Test takers will be asked to integrate (apply or analyze) information.	Items			Totals
	Ethics	Cognitive Level		
		Recall	Integration*	
First Quarter of the Calendar				10
I. PATIENT DATA		4	4	8
A. Evaluate Data in the Patient Record		2	2	4
1. Patient history, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • history of present illness (HPI) • orders • medication reconciliation • progress notes • DNR status / advance directives • social, family, and medical history 				
2. Physical examination relative to the cardiopulmonary system				
3. Lines, drains, and airways, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chest tube • vascular lines • artificial airway 				
4. Laboratory results, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC • electrolytes • coagulation studies • sputum culture and sensitivities • cardiac biomarkers 				
5. Blood gas analysis and / or hemoximetry (CO-oximetry) results				
6. Pulmonary function testing results, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spirometry • lung volumes • DLCO 				
7. 6-minute walk test results				
8. Imaging study results, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chest radiograph • CT scan • ultrasonography and / or echocardiography • PET scan • ventilation / perfusion scan 				


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9.	Maternal and perinatal / neonatal history, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APGAR scores • gestational age • L / S ratio 					
10.	Sleep study results, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apnea-hypopnea index (AHI) 					
11.	Trends in monitoring results					
	a. fluid balance					
	b. vital signs					
	c. intracranial pressure					
	d. ventilator liberation parameters					
	e. pulmonary mechanics					
	f. noninvasive, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pulse oximetry • capnography • transcutaneous 					
	g. cardiac evaluation / monitoring results, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECG • hemodynamic parameters 					
12.	Determination of a patient's pathophysiological state					
B. Perform Clinical Assessment			1	1		2
1.	Interviewing a patient to assess					
	a. level of consciousness and orientation, emotional state, and ability to cooperate					
	b. level of pain					
	c. shortness of breath, sputum production, and exercise tolerance					
	d. smoking history					
	e. environmental exposures					
	f. activities of daily living					
	g. learning needs, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literacy • preferred learning style • social / cultural 					


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	Cognitive Level			Totals
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2. Performing inspection to assess				
a. general appearance				
b. characteristics of the airway, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patency • Mallampati classification • tracheal shift 				
c. cough, sputum amount and character				
d. status of a neonate, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APGAR score • gestational age 				
e. skin integrity, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pressure ulcers • stoma site 				
3. Palpating to assess				
a. pulse, rhythm, intensity				
b. accessory muscle activity				
c. asymmetrical chest movements, tactile fremitus, crepitus, tenderness, tactile rhonchi, and / or tracheal deviation				
4. Performing diagnostic chest percussion				
5. Auscultating to assess				
a. breath sounds				
b. heart sounds and rhythm				
c. blood pressure				
6. Reviewing a chest radiograph to assess				
a. quality of imaging, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patient positioning • penetration • lung inflation 				
b. presence and position of airways, lines, and drains				
c. presence of foreign bodies				
d. heart size and position				


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e. presence of, or change in,				
(i) cardiopulmonary abnormalities, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pneumothorax • consolidation • pleural effusion • pulmonary edema • pulmonary artery size 				
(ii) diaphragm, mediastinum, and / or trachea				
C. Perform Procedures to Gather Clinical Information		1	0	1
1. 12-lead ECG				
2. Noninvasive monitoring, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pulse oximetry • capnography • transcutaneous 				
3. Peak flow				
4. Mechanics of spontaneous ventilation linked to tidal volume, minute volume, maximal inspiratory pressure, and vital capacity				
5. Blood gas sample collection				
6. Blood gas analysis and / or hemoximetry (CO-oximetry)				
7. Oxygen titration with exercise				
8. Cardiopulmonary calculations, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $P(A-a)O_2$ • V_D / V_T • P / F • OI 				
9. Hemodynamic monitoring				
10. Pulmonary compliance and airways resistance				
11. Plateau pressure				
12. Auto-PEEP determination				
13. Spontaneous breathing trial (SBT)				
14. Apnea monitoring				
15. Apnea test (brain death determination)				


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		Cognitive Level		Ethics	Recall	Integration*
16.	Overnight pulse oximetry					
17.	CPAP / NPPV titration during sleep					
18.	Cuff management, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tracheal • laryngeal 					
19.	Sputum induction					
20.	Cardiopulmonary stress testing					
21.	6-minute walk test					
22.	Spirometry outside or inside a pulmonary function laboratory					
23.	DLCO inside a pulmonary function laboratory					
24.	Lung volumes inside a pulmonary function laboratory					
25.	Tests of respiratory muscle strength - MIP and MEP					
26.	Therapeutic bronchoscopy					
D. Evaluate Procedure Results			0	1		1
1.	12-lead ECG					
2.	Noninvasive monitoring, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pulse oximetry • capnography • transcutaneous 					
3.	Peak flow					
4.	Mechanics of spontaneous ventilation linked to tidal volume, minute volume, maximal inspiratory pressure, and vital capacity					
5.	Blood gas analysis and / or hemoximetry (CO-oximetry)					
6.	Oxygen titration with exercise					
7.	Cardiopulmonary calculations, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $P(A-a)O_2$ • V_D / V_T • P / F • OI 					
8.	Hemodynamic monitoring					
9.	Pulmonary compliance and airways resistance					
10.	Plateau pressure					
11.	Auto-PEEP					


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12.	Spontaneous breathing trial (SBT)					
13.	Apnea monitoring					
14.	Apnea test (brain death determination)					
15.	Overnight pulse oximetry					
16.	CPAP / NPPV titration during sleep					
17.	Cuff status, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • laryngeal • tracheal 					
18.	Cardiopulmonary stress testing					
19.	6-minute walk test					
20.	Spirometry outside or inside a pulmonary function laboratory					
21.	DLCO inside a pulmonary function laboratory					
22.	Lung volumes inside a pulmonary function laboratory					
23.	Tests of respiratory muscle strength - MIP and MEP					
E. Recommend Diagnostic Procedures			o	o		o
1.	Testing for tuberculosis					
2.	Laboratory tests, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC • electrolytes • coagulation studies • sputum culture and sensitivities • cardiac biomarkers 					
3.	Imaging studies					
4.	Bronchoscopy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. diagnostic b. therapeutic 					
5.	Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL)					
6.	Pulmonary function testing					
7.	Noninvasive monitoring, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pulse oximetry • capnography • transcutaneous 					
8.	Blood gas and/or hemoximetry (CO-oximetry)					
9.	ECG					


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10.	Exhaled gas analysis, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO₂ • CO • FENO 					
11.	Hemodynamic monitoring					
12.	Sleep studies					
13.	Thoracentesis					
II. TROUBLESHOOTING AND QUALITY CONTROL OF DEVICES, AND INFECTION CONTROL			3	4		7
A. Assemble / Troubleshoot Devices			1	4		5
1.	Medical gas delivery interfaces, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mask • cannula • heated high-flow nasal cannula 					
2.	Long-term oxygen therapy					
3.	Medical gas delivery, metering, and /or clinical analyzing devices, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concentrator • liquid system • flowmeter • regulator • gas cylinder • blender • air compressor • gas analyzers 					
4.	CPAP / NPPV with patient interfaces					
5.	Humidifiers					
6.	Nebulizers					
7.	Metered-dose inhalers, spacers, and valved holding chambers					
8.	Dry-powder inhalers (DPI)					
9.	Resuscitation equipment, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self-inflating resuscitator • flow-inflating resuscitator • AED 					
10.	Mechanical ventilators					
11.	Intubation equipment					


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Second Quarter of the Calendar					10
12.	Artificial airways				
13.	Suctioning equipment, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regulator canister tubing catheter 				
14.	Blood analyzers, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hemoximetry (CO-oximetry) point-of-care blood gas 				
15.	Patient breathing circuits				
16.	Hyperinflation devices				
17.	Secretion clearance devices				
18.	Heliox delivery device				
19.	Portable spirometer				
20.	Testing equipment in a pulmonary function laboratory				
21.	Pleural drainage				
22.	Noninvasive monitoring, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pulse oximeter capnometer transcutaneous 				
23.	Bronchoscopes and light sources				
24.	Hemodynamic monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. pressure transducers b. catheters, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arterial pulmonary artery 				
B. Ensure Infection Prevention			1	0	1
1.	Adhering to infection prevention policies and procedures, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Precautions donning/doffing isolation 				

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Ethics	Recall	Integration*		
2.	Adhering to disinfection policies and procedures			
3.	Proper handling of biohazardous materials			
C. Perform Quality Control Procedures		1	0	1
1.	Blood analyzers			
2.	Gas analyzers			
3.	Pulmonary function equipment for testing			
	a. spirometry results			
	b. lung volumes			
	c. diffusing capacity (DLCO)			
4.	Mechanical ventilators			
5.	Noninvasive monitors			
III. INITIATION AND MODIFICATION OF INTERVENTIONS		3	22	25
A. Maintain a Patent Airway Including the Care of Artificial Airways		0	3	3
1.	Proper positioning of a patient			
2.	Recognition of a difficult airway			
3.	Establishing and managing a patient's airway			
	a. nasopharyngeal airway			
	b. oropharyngeal airway			
	c. esophagealtracheal tubes / supraglottic airways			
	d. endotracheal tube			
	e. tracheostomy tube			
	f. laryngectomy tube			
	g. speaking valves			
	h. devices that assist with intubation, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endotracheal tube exchanger • video laryngoscopy 			
4.	Performing tracheostomy care			
5.	Exchanging artificial airways			
6.	Maintaining adequate humidification			
7.	Initiating protocols to prevent ventilator-associated infections			
8.	Performing extubation			

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B. Perform Airway Clearance and Lung Expansion Techniques		0	1	1
1. Postural drainage, percussion, or vibration				
2. Suctioning, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nasotracheal • oropharyngeal 				
3. Mechanical devices, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high-frequency chest wall oscillation • vibratory PEP • intrapulmonary percussive ventilation • insufflation / exsufflation 				
4. Assisted cough, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • huff • abdominal thrust 				
5. Hyperinflation therapy				
6. Inspiratory muscle training				
C. Support Oxygenation and Ventilation		1	3	4
1. Initiating and adjusting oxygen therapy				
2. Minimizing hypoxemia, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patient positioning • secretion removal 				
3. Initiating and adjusting mask or nasal CPAP				
Third Quarter of the Calendar				10
4. Initiating and adjusting mechanical ventilation settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. continuous mechanical ventilation b. noninvasive ventilation c. high-frequency ventilation d. alarms 				
5. Recognizing and correcting patient-ventilator dyssynchrony				
6. Utilizing ventilator graphics				
7. Performing lung recruitment maneuvers				
8. Liberating a patient from mechanical ventilation				

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D. Administer Medications and Specialty Gases			1	0	1
1. Aerosolized preparations					
a. antimicrobials					
b. pulmonary vasodilators					
c. bronchodilators					
d. mucolytics / proteolytics					
e. steroids					
2. Endotracheal instillation					
3. Specialty gases, for example,					
• heliox					
• inhaled NO					
E. Ensure Modifications are Made to the Respiratory Care Plan			0	8	8
1. Treatment termination, for example,					
• life-threatening adverse event					
2. Recommendations					
a. starting treatment based on patient response					
b. treatment of pneumothorax					
c. adjustment of fluid balance					
d. adjustment of electrolyte therapy					
e. insertion or change of artificial airway					
f. liberating from mechanical ventilation					
g. extubation					
h. discontinuing treatment based on patient response					
i. consultation from a physician specialist					
3. Recommendations for changes					
a. patient position					
b. oxygen therapy					
c. humidification					
d. airway clearance					
e. hyperinflation					
f. mechanical ventilation					

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Fourth Quarter of the Calendar						
4. Recommendations for pharmacologic interventions						
a. bronchodilators						
b. anti-inflammatory drugs						
c. mucolytics and proteolytics						
d. aerosolized antibiotics						
e. inhaled pulmonary vasodilators						
f. cardiovascular						
g. antimicrobials						
h. sedatives and hypnotics						
i. analgesics						
j. narcotic antagonists						
k. benzodiazepine antagonists						
l. neuromuscular blocking agents						
m. diuretics						
n. surfactants						
o. changes to drug, dosage, administration frequency, mode, or concentration						
F. Utilize Evidence-Based Practice			0	1		1
1. Classification of disease severity						
2. Recommendations for changes in a therapeutic plan when indicated						
3. Application of guidelines, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARDSNet • NAEPP • GOLD 						
G. Provide Respiratory Care in High-Risk Situations			0	2		2
1. Emergency						
a. cardiopulmonary emergencies, excluding CPR						
b. disaster management						
c. medical emergency team (MET) / rapid response team						
2. Interprofessional communication						

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3. Patient transport				
a. land / air between hospitals				
b. within a hospital				
H. Assist a Physician / Provider in Performing Procedures		0	4	4
1. Intubation				
2. Bronchoscopy				
3. Specialized bronchoscopy, for example, • endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) • navigational bronchoscopy (ENB)				
4. Thoracentesis				
5. Tracheotomy				
6. Chest tube insertion				
7. Insertion of arterial or venous catheters				
8. Moderate (conscious) sedation				
9. Cardioversion				
10. Withdrawal of life support				
I. Conduct Patient and Family Education		1	0	1
1. Safety and infection control				
2. Home care and related equipment				
3. Lifestyle changes, for example, • smoking cessation • exercise				
4. Pulmonary rehabilitation				
5. Disease / condition management, for example, • asthma • COPD • CF • tracheostomy care • ventilator dependent				
Totals	1	10	30	40

* Each test form will include 1 item that engages thinking about ethics to select the best answer.

* This item also will

- include content from a task that shows an open cell under the **Ethics** column.
- be written to a cognitive level permitted for the task to which the item is linked.

Additional Specifications	
Patient Type	Maximum
Pediatric – 1 month to 17 years of age	1
Neonatal – birth to 1 month of age	1
Adult or General	balance
Total	40

Item Codes and Keywords about Patient Conditions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01- GENERAL | 18- BARIATRIC |
| 02- COPD | 19- NEONATAL |
| 03- ASTHMA | 20- BRONCHIOLITIS |
| 04- HEART FAILURE | 21- NEUROMUSCULAR |
| 05- POST-SURGICAL | 22- PSYCHIATRIC |
| 06- GERIATRIC | 23- CONGENITAL DEFECTS |
| 07- CARDIOVASCULAR | 24- CYSTIC FIBROSIS |
| 08- INFECTIOUS DISEASE | 25- BURN/INHALATION INJURY |
| 09- PULMONARY VASCULAR DISEASE | 26- LUNG TRANSPLANTATION |
| 10- TRAUMA | 27- APNEA |
| 11- IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOST | 28- INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE |
| 12- NEUROLOGIC | 29- DRUG OVERDOSE |
| 13- ARDS | 30- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) |
| 14- PEDIATRIC | 31- SEPSIS |
| 15- DISORDERS OF PREMATURITY | 32- LUNG CANCER |
| 16- PULMONARY EMBOLISM | |
| 17- SHOCK | |