

Respiratory Therapy Protocols

Respiratory therapy protocols are used to initiate, or modify, a patient care plan following a pre-determined and structured set of orders provided by a Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP). They include instructions or interventions in which the respiratory therapist is empowered to initiate, refine, transition, discontinue, and restart therapy as the patient's medical condition dictates. Protocols are generally written in algorithmic form, are based on existing scientific evidence as well as expert opinion, and include guidelines and options at decision points along with clearly stated outcome objectives.

Current medical literature supports the use of respiratory therapy protocols as an effective tool for delivering improved patient outcomes and appropriate allocation of services. Based on their demonstrated efficacy, it is the position of the American Association for Respiratory Care that institution-approved protocols should be used by respiratory therapists as the standard of care for providing respiratory care under qualified medical direction.

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