

Respiratory Therapy Protocols

Respiratory therapy protocols are used to initiate, or modify, a patient care plan following a pre-determined and structured set of physician orders. They include instructions or interventions in which the respiratory therapist is **empowered** ~~allowed to~~ to initiate, ~~discontinue~~, refine, transition, **discontinue, or 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 ~~producing~~ **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 ~~therapy services~~ **care** under qualified medical direction.

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