

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS: IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH SPECIALIZED RESPIRATORY CARE

Who We Are

Respiratory therapists are licensed healthcare professionals specializing in the assessment, treatment, and management of patients with cardiopulmonary disease. They practice in hospitals, physician offices, pulmonary rehabilitation programs, home care, long-term care facilities, military and veterans' health systems, and community-based settings.

American Association for Respiratory Care 2026 Federal Priorities

- Support the SOAR Act (H.R. 2902 / S. 1406) to modernize Medicare's oxygen benefit, improve access to medically necessary supplemental oxygen, and recognize the role of respiratory therapists in oxygen management.
- Support the AIR Act to expand access to respiratory therapist services in physician-led, community-based care settings.
- Support Permanent Virtual Pulmonary Rehabilitation for Medicare beneficiaries.

Why It Matters

Respiratory therapists help:

- Improve patient outcomes
- Reduce avoidable hospitalizations
- Support chronic disease management
- Improve care coordination
- Expand access to care in rural and underserved communities

Learn more about respiratory therapists and their impact in improving patient care in your community at aarc.org.