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OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Consider entering a hospital room in response to a Code Blue. You see two faces, one the ashen face of a patient who's clearly in cardiopulmonary arrest, the other the panicked look of a wife as she is hurried from the room. Minutes later, the patient is alive and breathing through an endotracheal tube because of you, your training, your calm in the face of crisis, and the team of nurses and caregivers around you.

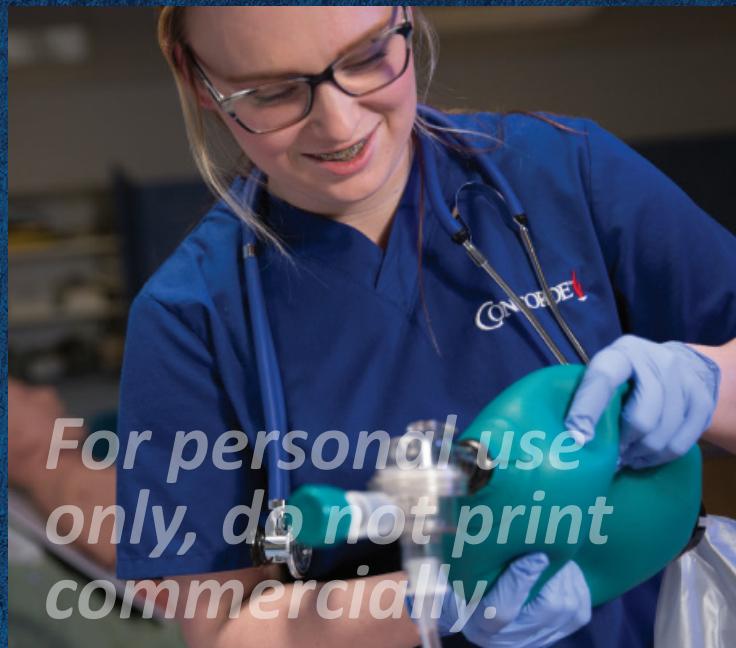
Respiratory therapists (RTs) can have a meaningful impact on the lives of their patients through evaluation, education, treatment and care for cardiopulmonary (heart and lung) disorders.

Who is the face of RT?

RTs are detailed problem-solvers, excellent listeners and skilled oral communicators. Generally, they are confident and calm. Additionally, the ability to quickly apply knowledge of relevant science, mathematics and technology to individual patient scenarios and critical-thinking skills is paramount.

Did You Know?

- In hospitals, respiratory therapists treat patients everywhere from the emergency room to the pediatric and adult intensive care units, to the diagnostics labs and the rehabilitation wing
- RTs who work in hospital settings work with many patient populations, from premature babies to the elderly suffering with pneumonia



Job Outlook



BRIGHT OUTLOOK

23% projected growth in employment
from 2016 to 2026, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Job Responsibilities

The core of an RTs role is assessing evidence presented by patients and, based on this evidence, developing and implementing care plans utilizing protocols and disease management programs. In this capacity, RTs can exercise considerable independent judgment in treating patients. Respiratory therapists practice under a physician's direction, but most often a physician is not present.

Training and Education

To enter the profession, one must graduate from an Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy program that has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. Graduates must then pass a national or state exam.