



Scope of Practice

The practice of respiratory therapy is the providing of oxygen therapy, cardio-respiratory equipment monitoring and the assessment and treatment of cardio-respiratory and associated disorders to maintain or restore ventilation.

The Anesthesia Assistants within St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton have completed additional training in an accredited Anesthesia Assistant program.

Controlled Acts Authorized to RT

Performing a prescribed procedure below the dermis (controlled act # 2).
Intubation beyond the point of the nasal passages where they normally narrow or beyond the larynx (controlled act # 6ii and iii).

Suctioning beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow or beyond the larynx (controlled act # 6ii and iii).

Administering a substance by injection or inhalation (controlled act # 5).

Respiratory Services

Professional Practice Leader (Charlton):

LESLIE BROOKS, RRT, MAppSc

Number of Members of Discipline:

SITE	FTE	PTE	Casual	POSITION
Charlton	23	4	17	Respiratory Therapist (RT)
	10		2	Anesthesia Assistants (AA)
	5	5		Pulmonary Technologists (PT)

Major Achievements

CARING

- Awarded money from the Patient Comfort Fund to purchase a variety of masks for nocturnal ventilation in an effort to enhance patient comfort and compliance with nocturnal non-invasive therapies.

LEARNING

Education:

Clinical Education

- 3 Respiratory Therapy students from Conestoga College were assisted in completing the clinical component of their clinical year.
- Provided a clinical shadow opportunity for a physician assistant student.

Formal Teaching

- One staff member is a professor at Conestoga College within the Respiratory Therapy Program.
- One staff member is a professor at Fanshawe College within the Anesthesia Assistant Program.
- Yearly education on non-invasive ventilation for Respiriology residents.
- Introduction to Ventilation and Tracheostomy teaching for intensive care unit residents.
- Ongoing education with respect to respiratory management of the neonate during resuscitation for pediatric residents.

LEARNING continued...

Internal Education

- Participation in clinical orientation for new hires.
- Participation in critical care training and orientation for nurses in critical care areas.
- Instructor with the Canadian Pediatric Society who assists in facilitating the Neonatal Resuscitation Program training for the interprofessional team within Women's and Infant's Health.
- Instructor with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada who assists with updating staff in regards to the Basic Cardiac Life Support Program.
- Participation in education days for Post Anesthetic Care Unit nurses and Emergency Department Nurses.
- Participation in yearly airway review sessions for Endoscopy nurses.
- Ongoing education on chronic ventilation and tracheostomy management for staff in the Complex Continuing Care Unit.
- Ongoing training of families with regards to tracheostomy care, chronic ventilation management, and home oxygen.

Research

Respiratory Therapists are critical participants in;

- "Lung Open Ventilation Study" Meade et al in Critical Care setting.
- "Evaluation of Practice Guidelines for NIPPV in ARF" Sinuff et al.
- "Ventilator Associated Pneumonia Study" Cook et al.
- "Hamilton Audit of High Frequency Oscillation in the ICU" Meade et al.

Respiratory Therapists are Clinical Trial Coordinators in 14 current research studies.

Include formal and informal research i.e. evidence based practice projects & clinical program evaluation.

- Respiratory Therapists have contributed to research with respect to the following:
 - "Index Study" providing sedation to patients receiving non-invasive mechanical ventilation Lewis et al in Critical Care setting
 - "Ultrasound training pilot for Canadian Respiratory Therapists" Lewis et al in Critical Care setting
 - "Facial Pressure Injuries During Proning" Piatek et al in Critical Care setting
 - "Mental Health of Respiratory Therapists During COVID" D'Alessandro et al in Tertiary Care Setting

Publications

- Andrea M. D'Alessandro-Lowe, Kimberly Ritchie, Andrea Brown, Yuanxin Xue, Mina Pichtikova, Max Altman, Isaac Beech, Heather Millman, Yarden Levy, Senay Asma, Kelly Hassall, Fatima Foster, Sara Rodrigues, Fardous Hosseiny, Charlene O'Connor, Alexandra Heber, Ann Malain, Hugo Schielke, Ruth A. Lanius, Randi E. McCabe & Margaret C. McKinnon (2023) Characterizing the mental health and functioning of Canadian respiratory therapists during the COVID-19 pandemic, European Journal of Psychotraumatology, 14:1, DOI: [10.1080/20008066.2023.2171751](https://doi.org/10.1080/20008066.2023.2171751)

LEARNING continued...

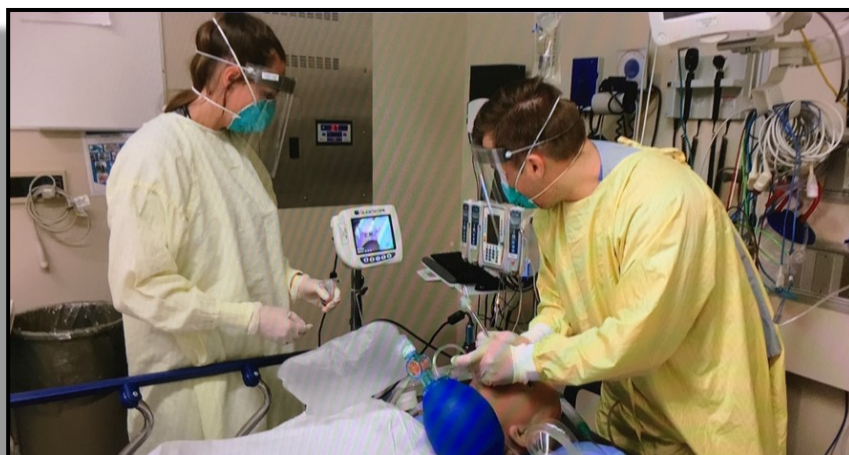
Publications

- Lewis K, Culgin S, Jaeschke R, Perri D, Marchildon C, Hassall K, Almubarak Y, Szczeklik W, Piraino T, Thabane L, Alqahtani KM. Cuff leak test and airway obstruction in mechanically ventilated intensive care unit patients: a pilot randomized controlled clinical trial. *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*. 2022 Feb;19(2):238-44.
- Leibel SL, Castro M, McBride T, Hassall K, Sarmiento K, Ye XY, Shah V. Comparison of Continuous positive airway pressure versus High flow nasal cannula for Oral feeding Preterm infants (CHOMP): randomized pilot study. *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*. 2022 Mar 4;35(5):951-7.
- Kappel C, Chaudhuri D, Hassall K, Theune S, Sharif S, Alhazzani W, Lewis K. Point-of-care ultrasound training for respiratory therapists: a scoping review. *Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy: CJRT= Revue Canadienne de la Therapie Respiratoire: RCTR*. 2022;58:28.
- Alhazzani W, Parhar KK, Weatherald J, Al Duhailib Z, Alshahrani M, Al-Fares A, Buabbas S, Cherian SV, Munshi L, Fan E, Al-Hameed F. Effect of awake prone positioning on endotracheal intubation in patients with COVID-19 and acute respiratory failure: a randomized clinical trial. *Jama*. 2022 Jun 7;327(21):2104-13.

BUILDING

Staff:

- One Registered Respiratory Therapist took the Anesthesia Assistant (AA) program at Michener Institute of Health Sciences. The RRT was successful and has the AA designation & working in the Operating Room at St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.



Internal Education:

- Neonatal Resuscitation Program Provider Training
- Basic Cardiac Life Support Training
- Delegation of Oxygen Therapy Titration to Occupational Therapists

Professional Practice Development:

- Successful graduate of the Emerging Leaders Program
- Successful graduate of the Anesthesia Assistant Program
- Staff member successfully completed the Queen's University Infection Prevention and Control Program
- Three staff members successfully challenged the Canadian Board for Respiratory Care exam

LEADING

External Activities:

Presentations

- Attendance at the Canadian Critical Care Forum 2022

Committees

- Canadian Critical Care Society of Ontario
- Hamilton Health Sciences Respiratory Practice Council
- Hamilton Health Sciences Annual Respiratory Therapy Educational Retreat Planning Committee
- Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists Clinical Simulation Network
- PAC Conestoga College

Major Initiatives for 2023:

CARING

- Identify and continue to use the CARS program when required for staff.

LEARNING

- Training in the application of energy in the form of ultrasound for arterial line insertion and bedside pulmonary diagnostics.
- Conestoga and Fanshawe Clinical Respiratory Therapy students.
- Ongoing completion of Neonatal Resuscitation Program training, Basic Cardiac Life Support Training and Advanced Cardiac Life Support Training.
- One staff member is beginning the Anesthesia Assistant Program starting in September 2023.

BUILDING

- Representation at the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists Annual Trade Show and Educational Conference in May 2023.
- Representation at the Hamilton Health Sciences Educational Respiratory Therapy Retreat in October 2023.

LEADING

- Hosting an Ultrasound workshop for Respiratory Therapists in collaboration with Dr Lewis at the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapy Annual Trade Show and Educational Conference.