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“Am I Practising?” Fact Sheet

OVERVIEW

To practice as a Respiratory Therapist (RT) in Nova Scotia, you must be registered with the Nova Scotia Regulator of Respiratory Therapy (NSRRT). RT practice can take place in a variety of settings, such as (but not limited to):

- Hospitals
- Government health agencies
- Community-based practice
- Healthcare research
- Educational institutions
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Independent practice
- Medical supply companies

This fact sheet was developed to help members determine if they practise Respiratory Therapy. For example, the NSRRT receives inquiries from members when considering a change of employment.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PRACTICE

Respiratory Therapists practise in many different areas and settings. In general, RT practice involves the following elements:

- Applying RT competencies (knowledge, skills, judgment, abilities) gained from RT education, employment, and experience as an RT.
- Applying relevant RT practice standards, policies, and guidelines.
- Having a direct or indirect effect on those who receive RT services.

- Interacting with those who expect you to have RT knowledge and/or skill.

Practising Respiratory Therapy includes both employment and volunteer activities.

AM I PRACTISING AS A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST?

You are practising as an RT if any of the following apply to you.

- **Providing direct patient care RT services to individuals and/or groups of individuals.**
 - Diagnostic/assessment, therapeutic, and rehabilitation service.
- **Providing RT education to patients, patient's family members, other healthcare professionals (regulated and non-regulated) and/or students.**
 - Health promotion, health counselling services (e.g., smoking cessation, spirometry testing).
 - Developing/delivering learning resources.
 - Information/education related to RT equipment & products.
- **Providing administrative services that have a direct or indirect effect on those who receive healthcare services.**
 - Policy/practice development & implementation.
 - Collection of healthcare data/RT-related data (e.g., chart audits, RT-related research, data/analysis).
 - Management of healthcare resources (e.g., staffing, equipment)
 - Influencing respiratory therapy practice and/or policy.
- **Other activities**
 - Sale of RT-related products (e.g., medical equipment).
 - Respiratory research and data collection.
 - Providing consultation on Respiratory Therapy and related care, equipment, and services.
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PRACTISING HOURS REQUIREMENT

Per the Respiratory Therapy Regulations, a member must have completed at least 1500 hours practising respiratory therapy in the four years immediately before applying for a practicing licence.

AM I PRACTISING? FACT SHEET

