

Respiratory Services

KELLY HASSALL, RRT, FCSRT, MEd, BSc
Professional Practice Leader (West 5th)

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).

Number of Members of Discipline:

SITE	FTE	POSITION
Charlton	21	Respiratory Therapist (RT)
	9	Anesthesia Assistants (AA)
	5	Pulmonary Technologists (PT)

Major Achievements

CARING

Clinical Practice:

- Engaged in the Footprints survey
- Optimized Dovetale charting to enhance communication and patient care
- Enhanced patient compliance and comfort with non-invasive nocturnal support using a variety of mask interfaces purchased through the comfort fund
- Established a Respiratory Therapy Practice Council

LEARNING

Education:

Clinical Education

- 3 Respiratory Therapy students from Conestoga College were assisted in completing their clinical year
- 1 Respiratory Therapy student from Fanshawe College is currently being assisted in completing their clinical year
- Observational educational opportunity was supported for a Healthcare Scientist trainee from the NHS Royal Papworth Hospital
- Support for Anesthesia Assistant students in the Operating Room



LEARNING

Education Continued....

Formal Teaching

- One staff member is a professor at Conestoga College within the Respiratory Therapy Program
- One staff member is assisting in the curriculum development for an Anesthesia Assistant Program with Mohawk College
- Yearly education with respect to non-invasive ventilation and respiratory medications for Respirology Resident
- Introduction to ventilation and tracheostomy teaching for intensive care unit residents.
- Ongoing education with respect to respiratory care and management of the neonate during resuscitation for pediatric residents
- Assistance in delivering the Neonatal Resuscitation Program to Family Practice Residents



Internal Education

- Participated in general clinical orientation for newly hired staff
- Engaged in critical care training and orientation for newly hired nurses in critical care areas
- Assisted in delivering Neonatal Resuscitation Program to the interprofessional team within the Women's and Infants' Health program
- Provided educational support for mock code blue pediatric discussions and simulations in the PET Department
- Collaborated with the interprofessional team in the Emergency Department for various simulation events
- Supported yearly airway review sessions for Endoscopy nurses

Research

- "Cuff Leak and Airway Obstruction in Mechanically Ventilated ICU Patients" Lewis et al
- "Non-invasive Ventilation and Dexmedetomidine in Critically Ill Adults" Lewis et al
- "A Randomized, Double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial of once daily inhaled molgramostim nebulizer solution in adult subjects with autoimmune pulmonary alveolar proteinosis" Savara Aps et al

Publications:

- D'Alessandro-Lowe, A., Ritchie, K., Brown, A., Xue, Y., Pichtoikova, M., Altman, M., Beech, I., Millman, H., Levy, Y., Asma, S., Hassall, K., Foster, F., Rodrigues, S., Hosseiny, F., O'Connor, C., Heber, A., Malain, A., Schielke, H., Lanius, R., McCabe, R., & McKinnon, M. (2023). Characterizing the mental health and functioning of Canadian respiratory therapists during the COVID-19 pandemic. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology* 14(1), online. Doi:10.1080/20008066.2023.217151
- Piatek, S., Bishop, E., Hassall, K., Fung, M., Harris, J., Hoogens, J. & Kho, M. (2023). Facial pressure injuries in mechanically ventilated prone patients: a narrative review. *Can J Anesth/J Can Anesth* 70 (Suppl 1), 89-92. Doi:10.1007/s12630-023-02445-y

BUILDING

Internal Education

- One staff member currently enrolled in the Fanshawe Anesthesia Assistant program and being supported with clinical experience and education in the Operating room at St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
- One staff member successfully completed the Micropreemie stabilization online course through the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapy (CRST)
- One staff member is currently enrolled in the preceptor education program



Professional Practice Development

- Ongoing training for the use of ultrasound for lung assessment and arterial line insertion
- One staff member successfully challenged the Health Professionals Testing Canada Entry to Practice Respiratory Therapy exam.

LEADING

External Activities:

- An RT and AA assisted in facilitating a workshop for the use of point of care ultrasound for lung assessment at the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapy National Educational Tradeshow and Conference with Dr. Kim Lewis
- Assisted with the pilot of the Fisher and Paykel Duet High Flow Nasal Prongs in the clinical setting
- Trial of Simeox airway secretion clearance device
- Recipient of the 2023 Conestoga College Employer of Distinction Award for precepting Respiratory Therapy Students

Presentations

- "Shading The Grey: Translating knowledge into practice" Lecture at CSRT May 2023 co-presented with Conestoga College.
- "The Flip-Side of Proning" Interprofessional lecture at the CSRT May 2023 with RT and Occupational Therapist from St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
- Lung Ultrasound Workshop at CSRT May 2023 Interprofessional team of MD, RT and AA from St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

Committees

- Hamilton Health Sciences Respiratory Therapy Practice Council
- Hamilton Health Sciences Annual Respiratory Therapy Educational Retreat Planning Committee
- Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists Clinical Simulation Network
- Professional Advisory Committee Conestoga College
- CSRT Scientific Program Committee
- Trauma Informed Care Steering Committee

Major Initiatives for 2024/25:

CARING

- Ongoing engagement with 3 wishes and compassionate care initiatives within the organization
- Explore resources and supports within the organization for mental health and wellness of health care teams

LEARNING

- Continue training and clinical implementation of point of care ultrasound for arterial line insertion and lung assessment
- Engage in education and training with regards to compassionate care at end of life
- Identify opportunities for Pediatric Advanced Life Support Training

BUILDING

- Representation at the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapy Annual Trade Show and Educational Conference in May 2024
- Representation at the Hamilton Health Sciences Educational Retreat in October 2024
- Representation at the Society of Respiratory Therapy Annual Educational Conference

LEADING

- Assist Respiratory Therapists from Sick Kids and St Mary's in acquiring Point of Care Ultrasound training
- Evaluate non-invasive respiratory support devices for acute BiPAP management

