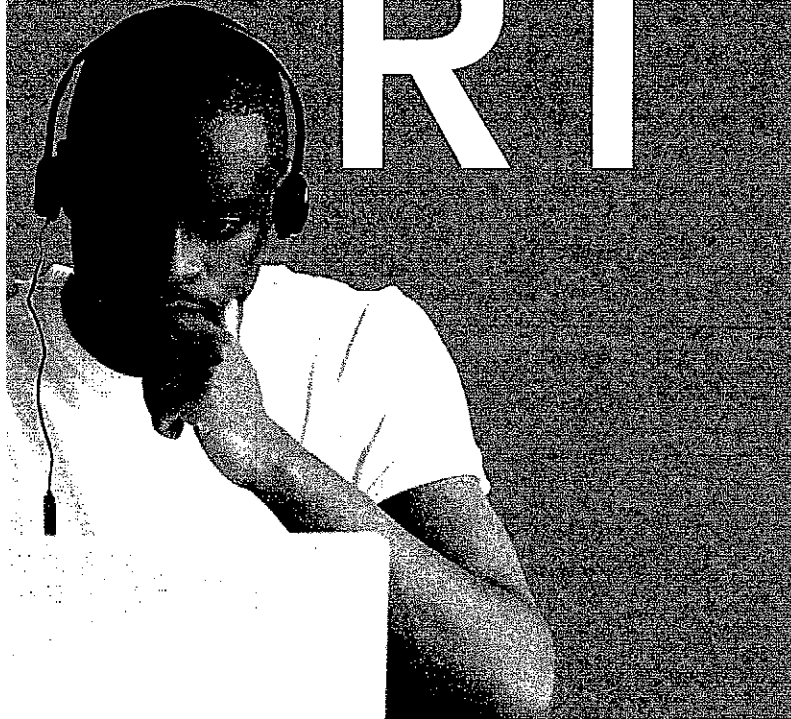


Be An RT



Respiratory Therapy is a specialized health care field where practitioners are trained in pulmonary medicine in order to work therapeutically with people suffering from pulmonary disease.

With all the knowledge RTs possess, it's no wonder their days are so diverse. A day in the life of a Respiratory Therapist might include:

- Diagnosing lung and breathing disorders.
- Evaluating patients and consulting with physicians to recommend a change in therapy.
- Analyzing breath, tissue, and blood specimens.
- Managing ventilators and artificial airway devices.
- Responding to emergency situations and urgent calls for care.
- Educating patients and families about lung disease.

In this profession,
there is nowhere to go but **UP!**

Management

Respiratory therapists find great career ladders in most settings—particularly in the hospital, which still employs the majority of therapists. RTs who excel on the job have no problem rising up the ranks from staff therapist, to shift supervisor, to department manager.

Branching Out

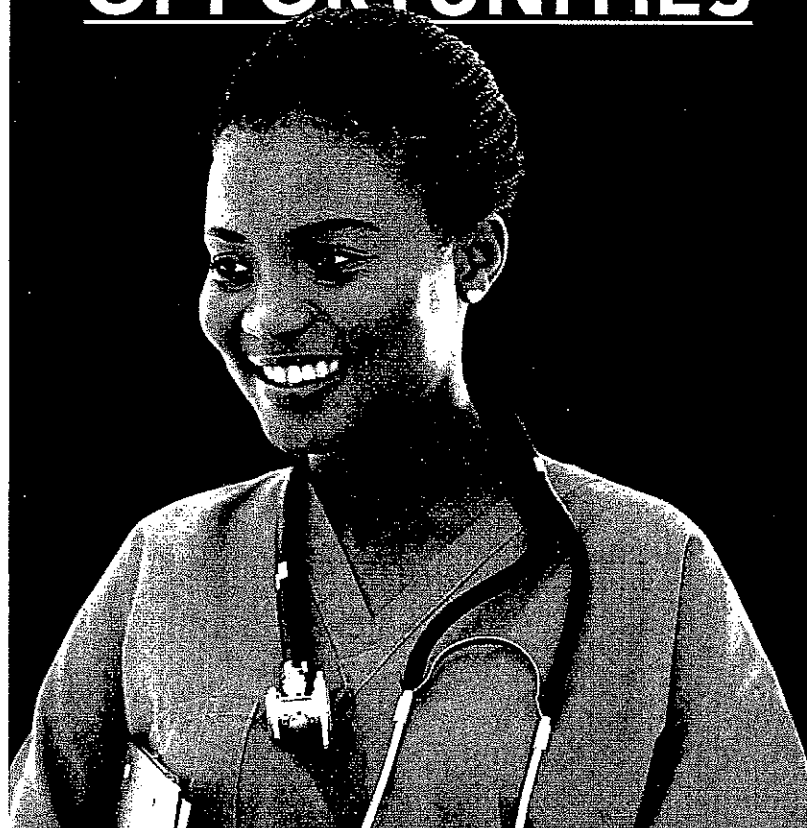
RTs who specialize in home care may establish their own companies to provide equipment and clinical services.

Some therapists eventually venture into the corporate world as well, taking positions with equipment manufacturers as product or marketing specialists. With the knowledge gained through years of experience as an RT, their technical and patient care know-how is considered invaluable to these firms.

Teaching

And if teaching is your thing, you can also parlay a successful career as an RT into a faculty position at a school of respiratory therapy, or as a clinical education coordinator for a hospital or other respiratory therapy department.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES





But what about the employment and financial outlook?

WE HAVE THAT COVERED TOO!

Average Salary for Respiratory Therapists

The projected average salary for RTs Working in the U.S. is over \$62,000 a year.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is expected to increase faster than average over the next decade.



The chance to connect with patients and families, challenge your mind with high tech patient care, experience variety on the job, lots of places to work, and a career ladder that can't be beat — it looks like respiratory care really does have it all.

Learn more about respiratory therapy and your career options online at

www.Be-An-RT.org

You can also speak to your local respiratory program in person:

Marywood University

Wendy Guzenski, Respiratory Therapy Program Director

(570) 348-6215

Wguzenski@maryu.marywood.edu

<http://www.marywood.edu>

Marywood University's Respiratory Therapy program has a state-of-the-art Cardiopulmonary Lab where students have access to all the best technology and equipment so that they are better prepared when entering the hospital!

The program has exciting clinical rotations that prepares the student to be a competent and successful RT!

Could You Be an RT?

What Is a Respiratory Therapist?

A respiratory therapist (RT) is trained and skilled to assess, diagnose, and treat patients who have difficulty breathing. They work with people of all ages, from infants to the elderly, in conjunction with physicians and nurses to come up with treatment plans aimed at best helping restore as much natural breathing function as possible.

From initial interviewing and examining, to teaching patients how to administer treatments on their own, respiratory therapists are a critical component in helping people living with cardio-pulmonary disease and disorders. Respiratory therapists have a strong presence in critical care areas in the hospital including Intensive Care Units, Emergency Departments, Trauma Centers, Neonatal Intensive Care Units. RTs also work on helicopter and ground emergency transport.

A respiratory therapist is trained to care for people with lung diseases or disorders. Respiratory Therapists treat patients in pulmonary distress due to complications from asthma, bronchitis, COPD, pneumonia, chest trauma, lung cancer, and more. RTs are specialists in high tech equipment such as mechanical ventilators, high flow oxygen machines and BIPAP/CPAP machines. Respiratory therapists are in high demand, with industry growth projected to be at least 23 percent over the next decade according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Respiratory Therapists work in a variety of health care centers including Trauma Centers, Emergency Departments, Critical Care Units, Pulmonary Function Labs, Sleep Labs and Home Care

Here is a list of tasks that Respiratory Therapists do every day.

- Monitor patient's physiological responses to therapy, such as vital signs, arterial blood gases, or blood chemistry changes, and consult with physician if adverse reactions occur.
- Set up and operate devices such as mechanical ventilators, high flow oxygen, aerosol generators, nitric oxide gas inhalation therapy, and BiPAP/CPAP machines
- Work as part of a team of physicians, nurses, or other healthcare professionals to manage patient care by assisting with medical procedures or related duties.
- Maintain charts that contain patients' pertinent identification and therapy information.
- Read prescription, measure arterial blood gases, and review patient information to assess patient condition
- Perform arterial blood gas punctures and analyze results
- Are first line responders to emergency situations such as cardiac arrest and code blue situations performing manual ventilation and assist/perform intubations on patients

How Much Do Respiratory Therapists Make?

The average annual respiratory therapist salary in the U.S. is \$61,330. Those with a more advanced RRT certification typically earn more than entry-level CRTs. Most respiratory therapists work full time, and they can work shifts during "normal" business hours, or they may work shifts during nights and weekends.