Overview of Clinical Course Information

Throughout the BRT program, clinical courses provide students with first-hand, supervised, experience, within hospital and clinical settings. Students will interact with and provide treatments to patients. This enables the student to acquire the skills and knowledge to be able to:

- Describe the role of the Respiratory Therapist in various practice settings where respiratory care is provided.
- Practice providing respiratory care to adult/pediatric and neonatal patients with the supervision of a Registered Respiratory Therapist, as part of an inter-professional care team,
- Demonstrate competence in a selection of general adult/pediatric and neonatal respiratory care related competencies outlined in the Respiratory Therapy National Competency Framework,

Each site has a designated Clinical Instructor to oversee and support the student’s clinical education experience at the particular site. The student will be assigned a preceptor staff member of the Department of Respiratory Therapy to facilitate achievement of the clinical competencies and objective of the course. Student’s and Preceptor’s will work collaboratively to plan, and work towards achieving skills, attitudes and values which encompass the competencies throughout the duration of the course.

Clinical Course Goals include:

- Participate in the performance and delivery of safe patient care.
- Integrate this role into part of an inter-professional care team.
- Demonstrate competence in a selection of related competencies as outlined in the National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulator Bodies National Competency Framework.
- Demonstrate proficiency in didactic background knowledge pertaining to the clinical practice area.
- Reflect on experiences and self-assess performance throughout the course focusing on the theory, knowledge and skills performed in clinical practice.
- Uphold professional standards of practice as they relate to the profession.
- Demonstrate the basic principles of occupational and patient safety relating to respiratory therapy.

Prerequisite Requirements for All Clinical Courses

- Compliance with Bannatyne Immunization Program
- CPR Level HCP Certificate Card - Heart and Stroke
- Mask Fit Test
- Criminal Records check
- Vulnerable Sector Check
- Child abuse check
- Adult abuse check
• Student Safety requirements:
  o Fire training,
  o PHIA,
  o WHIMIS,
  o Ergonomics for safe patient transfer,
  o Health and Safety Awareness,
  o Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace,
  o Impairment and Cannabis in the Workplace,
  o Mental Health E-Course,
  o Accessibility in a Health Care Environment,
  o Emergency Codes used in Hospital,
  o Preventing Mistreatment of Students,
  o Violence Awareness, Violence: Recognizing, Responding and Preventing,
  o Tuberculosis Management,
  o Infection Control Training

Costs Associated with Clinical Courses:

Students will be required to have the following items— (not provided by the program)

• 4 pairs of scrubs,
• Stethoscope
• Comfortable indoor shoes
• Notepad,
• Electronic device such as a tablet, smartphone, or laptop computer to access CompKeepr
• Transportation to and from clinical sites. (Both in the city of Winnipeg and Outside the City of Winnipeg. Nominal mileage Per Diem is provided by the RT department for travel outside the parameter @ 0.12 cents per Km
• Accommodation costs when outside the parameter, may be required to be paid for by students
• CPR course is paid for by the student
• Mask Fit Test is paid for by the student
• All Criminal Record checks and vulnerable sector are paid for by students
• Please note that students may be required to travel outside of Winnipeg for one or more clinical education courses. The student may be responsible to cover part or the full cost associated with travel to that specific site.

CompKeepr

CompKeepr is a web-based competency and evaluation management tool the RT program utilizes, which is custom-designed to support the RT Clinical Education Program. Students, instructors, support staff, and preceptors can log in to the system online or use their mobile device to accurately track pertinent information, such as the achievement of educational objectives and competency completion and to provide feedback and evaluation to students.

Key Benefits of CompKeepr:

• Reduction in accumulation of paper evaluation and competency binders printed
• Mitigates errors in the tracking of student evaluations
• Enables instructors to view student progress in real time
• Enables instructors to identify student’s weaknesses earlier
• CompKeepr is responsible for continuous educational support as well as system maintenance and set up
• Fully customizable to suit the specific needs of the program

Clinical Course Scheduling

Students may be scheduled to undertake clinical education coursework at any time throughout year three of the BRT program. The usual schedule is as follows:

Year 1 – RESP 1460 Basic Fieldwork 1 - 4 weeks – May

Year 2 – RESP 2380 Basic Fieldwork 2 - 4 weeks – June

Year 3 – All Clinical Courses take place beginning the third week in August and end the last week of April

*During extenuating circumstances clinical courses may be rescheduled. Students will be notified of clinical course schedules in advance as much as possible.*

Weekly schedules will be determined by the clinical education coordinator, in collaboration with the clinical sites. Schedules will be communicated to the students in advance of commencement of the clinical education course by the clinical education coordinator.

Evaluations

*Daily Evaluations* are completed by preceptors or clinical instructors. This method of formative evaluation and feedback will provide the student time to improve their performance before the final evaluation is completed. Students will be given the feedback necessary to improve performance and progress to competent. Feedback should be provided on students’ strengths and weaknesses and areas to focus on so they can successfully achieve the course goals. Daily evaluations from preceptors may differ from person to person. Be open to constructive criticism and view that as coaching or mentoring to become a better therapist in the long run.

*Final Formative Student Assessments* are completed by the site Clinical Instructor or designate at the end of the course.

Every attempt should be made by both the student and the clinical instructor to arrange a meeting between the Clinical Instructor and the Student to discuss the final evaluation before the student completes the course. The Clinical Education Coordinator for the RT program reviews all Final Assessments.

All evaluations are shared with the student via the CompKeepr System. All evaluations are accessible to the clinical course coordinator.
Clinical Course Evaluation

In order to successfully complete a clinical course, the student must:

- **Demonstrate multiple and variety of attempts to complete all clinical competencies associated with the course.**
- **Obtain the minimum threshold level** outlined as a PASS, and have each competency signed off the specified number of times listed in the CompKeepr System.

**Note** - Some Competencies may be associated with multiple courses. If the competency is listed in other clinical courses, you may have the opportunity to be evaluated for those competencies in different courses and you may achieve sign offs in multiple courses throughout the year.

By the end of the year 3, all competencies must be signed off by the Clinical Preceptor or Clinical Instructor, or have been achieved through simulated scenarios if the competency is not able to be practiced in the clinical setting.

- **Attendance** - Maintain adequate clinical hours required in this course. The clinical education coordinator will contact you if there is any concern regarding excessive absences in a course.
- **Complete Clinical Course and Clinical site evaluation** at the end of this course via CompKeepr.
- **Final Formative Student Evaluations** are reviewed by the clinical education coordinator to ensure students are progressing through the clinical year as expected, without repeated incident, or safety concerns, throughout the clinical year. Patterns of inadequacy in clinical courses will be flagged and may result in progression delay as determined by the Clinical Education Coordinator and Department Head based on unsatisfactory performance.
- **Complete the Self-Assessment and Reflective** components required for the course. (UMLearn)

Clinical courses will be graded on a **Pass/Fail basis**, reflecting successful completion of all elements listed above. No Letter Grade will be given for Clinical Courses.

**Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance is expected of all students in all courses. Unexplained absences or persistent non-attendance may result in disbarment from clinical courses and failure in that course. Refer to the College of Rehabilitation Sciences Student Handbook for more information about this policy.

**Plagiarism, Falsifying Information**

Please be reminded that plagiarism, falsifying information, cheating and impersonation at any time during your enrollment in this course, are serious offences subject to disciplinary measures at the University that may lead to suspension or expulsion. Please read the appropriate parts of the Undergraduate Calendar dealing with this topic.
Use of Laptop and Tablet Computers in the Clinical Environment

Use of a Laptop or Tablet is permitted upon the discretion of the clinical site. The use of laptops or tablets is required for access to course materials and classroom activities. All course notes are made available on the University’s online learning platform, UM Learn.

The Department of Respiratory Therapy encourages students to use these devices in an appropriate and professional manner. Students should use discernment and professional judgment in determining appropriate use of electronic devices. Instructors or preceptors may use their discretion and indicate to students when behaviours related to electronic device use are not appropriate and should cease.

It is recognized that Student Accessibility Services sometimes recommends the use of electronic devices for students for accommodation of special needs. Students are encouraged to discuss these recommendations with instructors prior to commencing class.

Do not take laptop or tablets into PATIENT CARE AREAS.

Students may wish to utilize electronic devices to access course notes made available on UM Learn. This option provides an environmentally sensitive solution to printing paper copies of those notes, and can result in substantial cost saving for the student.

Cell Phone Use in the Clinical Learning Environment

Use of cell phones and the cellular communications capabilities of other electronic devices in the clinical learning environment are only permitted for educational purposes. Activities such as making telephone calls, texting or social media are NOT permitted. You may be asked to leave the clinical site if you are found to be using your cell phone inappropriately. Please turn cell phones off or switch to silent mode and disable the cellular functions of other devices when participating in all clinical learning activities.

It is recognized that Student Accessibility Services sometimes recommends the use of a laptop computer for students for accommodation. Students are encouraged to discuss these recommendations with instructors prior to commencing class.

Professional Attire in Clinical Settings

The purpose of the dress code is to promote a neat and professional appearance to patients, visitors and staff, at all times.

- All clothing shall be clean, neat and of suitable style to promote a professional appearance.
- Students required to wear uniforms in patient care areas are not to wear such uniforms to and from the hospital premises.
- All students must wear U of M ID; mask fit test card and WRHA photo ID at all times.
- O.R. greens should be worn only in the Anaesthesia rotation and the Maternal-Fetal rotation.
- Personal hygiene and general appearance shall also comply with the requirements of the clinical site.
- Hair must be clean and well groomed.
- Long hair should be worn up when in contact with patients.
• Appropriate footwear should be worn at all times and must conform to safety standards, closed toed and with complete protection.
• Footwear should not produce disruptive noise and should be clean and in good repair.
• Jewelry should be worn in moderation and good taste.
• Jewelry may not be permitted in some clinical areas.
• Policies of clinical areas must be adhered to at all times
• Scented products should not be worn in patient care areas.
• Those in direct contact with patients must maintain short and clean fingernails, no artificial nails due to infection control policies.

Clinical Education Sites may have specific dress code information and uniform requirements. This information will be provided to students by the course coordinator prior to the first day of clinical courses. Violation of site policies may result in students being required to leave the clinical education site. This decision is at the discretion of the Year 3 Coordinator, Clinical Course