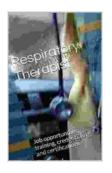
# Respiratory Therapist: Job Opportunities, Training, and Credentialing

Respiratory therapists are in high demand as the population ages and the incidence of chronic respiratory diseases increases. They are an essential part of the healthcare team, providing life-saving care to patients with breathing problems.



# Respiratory Therapist: Job opportunities, training, credentialing, and certifications by David J Howe

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This guide will provide you with all the information you need to become a respiratory therapist, including:

\* What is a respiratory therapist? \* What are the job opportunities for respiratory therapists? \* How do I become a respiratory therapist? \* What are the credentialing requirements for respiratory therapists? \* What is the salary and career outlook for respiratory therapists?

#### What is a Respiratory Therapist?

Respiratory therapists are healthcare professionals who assess, diagnose, and treat patients with breathing problems. They work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and home healthcare.

Respiratory therapists perform a variety of tasks, including:

\* Providing breathing treatments \* Monitoring patients on ventilators \* Performing pulmonary function tests \* Educating patients on respiratory care \* Conducting research on respiratory diseases

#### Job Opportunities for Respiratory Therapists

Respiratory therapists are in high demand due to the aging population and the increasing incidence of chronic respiratory diseases. The job outlook for respiratory therapists is expected to grow by 20% over the next decade, much faster than the average for all occupations.

Respiratory therapists can work in a variety of settings, including:

\* Hospitals \* Clinics \* Home healthcare \* Schools \* Research laboratories

#### How to Become a Respiratory Therapist

To become a respiratory therapist, you must complete an accredited respiratory therapy program. These programs are typically offered at community colleges and technical schools.

Respiratory therapy programs typically take two to three years to complete. They include coursework in anatomy and physiology, respiratory physiology, pharmacology, and clinical practice. Once you have completed an accredited respiratory therapy program, you must pass the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) exam to become certified.

#### **Credentialing Requirements for Respiratory Therapists**

Respiratory therapists must be certified by the NBRC in Free Download to practice. The NBRC offers three levels of certification:

\* Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) \* Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) \* Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT)

The CRT credential is the entry-level credential for respiratory therapists. The RRT credential is the advanced-level credential for respiratory therapists. The CPFT credential is for respiratory therapists who specialize in pulmonary function testing.

#### Salary and Career Outlook for Respiratory Therapists

Respiratory therapists earn a good salary. The median annual salary for respiratory therapists is \$62,180. The top 10% of earners make more than \$95,000 per year.

The career outlook for respiratory therapists is positive. The demand for respiratory therapists is expected to grow by 20% over the next decade, much faster than the average for all occupations.

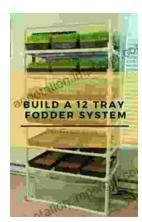
If you are interested in a career in healthcare, respiratory therapy is a great option. Respiratory therapists are in high demand, and the career outlook is positive. To become a respiratory therapist, you must complete an accredited respiratory therapy program and pass the NBRC exam. I hope this guide has been helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to leave a comment below.



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