I. **Purpose**

The objective of this policy is to delineate the role of the respiratory care therapist in the education of patients, and family members when appropriate, about their medical condition and participation in its management in conjunction with other ancillary services. When the term "patient" is mentioned in this policy, family members and personal caregivers are implied, when appropriate.

II. **Policy**

A. Indications for patient/family education include:
   1. Increase the patient's knowledge and understanding of health status and therapy
   2. Improve patient's skills necessary to deliver safe and effective care
   3. Foster increased compliance with therapeutic modalities

B. The goal of patient education is to elicit positive change in the patient/family behavior and understanding of healthcare needs, therapy, and importance of compliance to manage their disease process in the most cost effective manner.

C. Each licensed staff member's competency of patient education and documentation will be assessed during initial employment orientation. Clinical development training will be provided as necessary.

D. The patient education process should occur with every patient encounter.

E. Patient education encounters should be documented on the *Patient/Family Education Form* and in the MediLinks charting system.

F. Learning limitations may be due to the language, emotional, cognitive, religious, cultural, and financial barriers.

G. Social Work should be consulted to assist with social and language barriers.

H. Pastoral Care should be consulted to assist with religious barriers.

I. Child Life may be consulted to assist with teaching the pediatric and adolescent population.

J. There are no contraindications of patient education.

K. Expected outcomes of patient education include: positive validation/feedback upon assessment of patient knowledge and positive attitude and behaviors that support/enhance disease management.

L. Universal precautions should be performed when using any durable equipment during the education process.
SUBJECT: Patient Family Education

II. Scope and Setting
A. Personnel
   1. Certified Respiratory Care Therapists
   2. Registered Respiratory Care Therapists
B. Areas
   1. Inpatient Medical-Surgical Patient Area
   2. Inpatient Intensive Care Area
   3. Outpatient Clinic Areas

III. Equipment
   Population specific, literacy-appropriate handouts
   Population specific, literacy-appropriate videotapes
   Population specific, literacy-appropriate picture chart
   Population specific, literacy-appropriate computer generated education pamphlets

IV. Procedure
A. Assess the patient's knowledge base about his/her past disease and management
B. Use one of the instruction methods to teach the patient about the process, procedure, therapy, test; include hazards, complications, expected outcomes, and benefits of therapy
C. Assess the patient's evidence of learning
D. Assess the patient's concerns; consult ancillary departments about patient concerns if necessary
E. Validate the patient's learning
F. Document patient education on the PATIENT/FAMILY EDUCATION RECORD #1534
G. Assure follow-up for any identified need for additional instruction