A. Purpose

The University Hospital and Clinics and the Respiratory Care Department recognizes that the mission of the University Medical Center includes providing quality medical education. To ensure that students receive the required high level of clinical education while hospital patients receive optimum care, the Respiratory Care Department has set the following policies for Respiratory Care Students.

B. Policy

1. To insure quality patient care, each student is expected to perform clinical procedures at a level acceptable to the Director of Respiratory Care. As guests of the University Hospitals and Clinics, all faculty members and students of the schools for respiratory care will be expected to follow the policies and procedures of the University Hospital and the Respiratory Department.
2. All students of schools for respiratory care who are placed into the clinical environment in the University Hospital and Clinics will be supervised through all phases of their clinical education.
3. When applicable, an Agreement for Clinical Education shall be in effect between the University Hospitals and Clinics and the School for Respiratory Therapy.
4. Prior to performing clinical procedures involving University Hospital and Clinics' patients, each student must successfully complete a pre-clinical evaluation. The pre-clinical evaluation is the responsibility of the School for Respiratory Care.
5. Prior to documentation of clinical competency, each student will be directly supervised by a faculty member of their respective school or by Clinical Adjunct Faculty. After documentation of clinical competency through the utilization of the procedural assessment of clinical competency, students may be assigned to perform clinical procedures under less stringent supervision.
6. Students and school faculty may perform the same procedures as those performed by the Respiratory Care Department Staff.
7. Students will be allowed to perform an arterial puncture with a Respiratory Care faculty member or a Respiratory Care Supervisor present. This faculty member or supervisor must be certified by the Medical Director or his or her designee as competent to perform this invasive procedure. Direct supervision is required. Students may not perform arterial punctures under indirect supervision.
8. Students must complete these prerequisite procedures before entering the patient care areas:
   a) All universal pre-clinical procedures to include reviewing patient charts and completing Respiratory Therapy Department forms.
b) All recurrent clinical tasks to include locating patients, hand washing, and assessing vital signs.

c) All post clinical tasks to include charting in the patients medical record.

9. Clinical Procedures
The students will practice infection control procedures with the equipment aide staff. The procedures will consist of:

a. chemical disinfecting

b. chemical sterilization

c. individual cleaning procedures for reusable equipment