

Respiratory Care Services

Respiratory care services are available on an inpatient and outpatient basis at Welch Community Hospital to ensure that anyone who has a breathing problem can obtain the help he or she needs. Our specialists are always on site and ready with advanced equipment to help in any department, from the emergency department to the intensive care unit and the newborn nursery.

Highly experienced and trained in both the diagnosis and treatment of breathing problems, our respiratory therapists draw on their experience to assess patient needs and offer appropriate care, as quickly and effectively as possible. They also work to help patients and their families understand the purpose, benefits, equipment and steps of each test or therapy.

The Respiratory Therapy Department is staffed by trained professionals who are licensed by the State of West Virginia and who hold one or more credentials such as RRT (Registered Respiratory Therapist) or CRT (Certified Respiratory Therapist). Respiratory therapy training is provided by two to four year programs and includes clinical rotations at health care facilities. Respiratory therapy department staff members are required to have current BCLS certification.

We have 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week coverage for inpatient and emergency services. Hours for scheduled outpatient testing are Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:00 pm. The main department phone number is 304-436-8661.

Inpatient Services

Most respiratory services are provided bedside, although more advanced pulmonary function testing is performed in the Respiratory Therapy Department. Services include:

- Respiratory therapy treatments to deliver inhaled medications: nebulizers and inhalers.
- Treatments for lung expansion or to help clear secretions, such as incentive spirometry, flutter devices, and chest PT
- Diagnostics - pulmonary function testing, arterial blood gases, EKG, and pulse oximetry.
- Oxygen therapy and titration - evaluation for home oxygen, BIPAP/CPAP, bland aerosols / croup tents
- Management of life support devices: Adult and pediatric mechanical ventilation.

Outpatient Services

- Diagnostics - complete pulmonary function testing, arterial blood gases, EKG, pulse oximetry.
- Evaluation for home oxygen
- Incentive spirometry and "flutter" devices
- Respiratory therapy treatments to deliver inhaled medications: nebulizers and inhalers.