

# Respiratory therapists- great need in the COPD population

## Opinion

Why would the COPD population benefit from having access to Respiratory Therapists? Respiratory Therapists are hands on skilled clinicians with a vast knowledge base of this debilitating disease-COPD. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease has taken many lives and will continue to take more. Respiratory Therapists have the understanding, skills and foundation which will allow for better disease management, maintenance, and education to improve LIFE-activities of daily living. Education and access to RRTs will be keys to open these doors.

For those who question why do we need Respiratory Therapists? Think about how difficult it would be to live if you could not get air in or out of the lungs. It can feel like a ton of bricks sitting on your chest while one struggles for release. Respiratory Therapists focus specifically on the Pulmonary System, breathing, and improving/stabilizing people who are fighting for their next breath. RRTs are highly trained and educated. If the world can see how important it is to breathe and live, we would not need to change anything. Unfortunately, nothing changes in the world until it is too late. Let's stop this. Let's move forward! Home assessments, follow up visits, education, re-instruction, COPD group sessions and Better Breather support groups can be ways to manage this disease. A few extra steps can keep people at home instead of returning to the hospital for re-admission.

Better education, awareness and access to skilled clinicians ready to step in with the knowledge. Respiratory Therapists are highly trained and educated to do this and more. Our COPD world deserves

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the chance to have the best training and education. They deserve a chance and access to RRTs- in the COPD WORLD is PRICELESS.

Preventative maintenance is the brick for the COPD WORLD. It can be you or someone in your family. Access to Respiratory Therapists will give the community the stepping stone it needs and allow quality care to be in reach.

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## Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.