

## Respiratory Care Profession in Yemen (Past, Marvelous Present and Bright Future)...!

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### COLUMN ARTICLE

It is well known that the terms such as respiratory therapy and inhalation therapy refers to one meaning term that is the specialty of respiratory care, which is known as the health care discipline that specializes in the promotion of optimal cardio-Pulmonary function and health which includes the assessment, treatment, management, control, diagnostic evaluation, education, and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system.

Respiratory care specialty joined the healthcare system as the urgent need for such a specialty because of its vital and important role in improving the outcomes of the health care services, especially the outcomes of critical care units and currently considers the heart of critical care in any hospital.

Respiratory care profession in Yemen was frozen in the past years before 2015, here we can say that the respiratory care specialty becomes one of the fastest growing allied health specialties across Yemen, it has witnessed rapidly development and remarkable progress in the past three years starting with the scientific activities carried out recently represented a turning point and a milestone for the reality of RT specialization in Yemen.

The success of the first Yemeni conference of Respiratory Care which held back on November 6 - 7, 2017 in 48 Model Hospital, its success made a value to increasing the awareness of the RT profession importance among healthcare providers in Yemen, also celebrating the international Respiratory Care Week, which held for the first time in the history of Yemen sponsored by Yemen Bilquis Medical Institute this recognized event led the American Association for Respiratory Care to writing an article about the details of the event and published it on its official website.

The scientific activities continued noticeably to the first Scientific day for Asthma that held back this year in recognition of the World Asthma Day which was the first World Asthma Day celebration event in Yemen and sponsored by Modern European Hospital in cooperation with Al-Razi University on May 7, 2019.

The profession of respiratory care in Yemen has become one of the most expanding specializations in the Yemeni hospitals, which witnessed the opening of seven respiratory care departments in 7 different hospitals during a short period between 2016 and 2019, unlike in the previous phase from 2006 till 2014 were only 4 respiratory care department in four hospitals across Yemen.

However, some public and private hospitals are still working on arranging to opening the respiratory care

departments according to the National guide of Respiratory Care Services in public and private hospitals issued by the Ministry of Health, which assigned the criteria to all hospitals are obliged to open the respiratory care departments.

The achievements in the respiratory care specialty in Yemen during the last phase did not stop at this point only to come to the role of the Minister of Public Health and Population, Prof. Dr. Taha Al-Mutawakel, who made a fingerprint in establishing the cornerstone of this important profession and signed an official order to create a new administration named Respiratory Care Services Administration related structurally to Medical services general directorate at Ministry of Health.

After signing the official decision, it came to the role of Respiratory Care Services Administration at the Ministry of Health to implementing a number of activities that promote the specialty of respiratory therapy in Yemen.

From its tasks and activities is issuing and production of the National guide of Respiratory Care Services in Private and public Hospitals, which is considered as the constitution for the respiratory care departments in all hospitals that will be monitored to find out the extent of their commitment in working according to the national guide.

Here we review the most important tasks assigned to the Respiratory Care Services Administration at the Ministry of Public Health and Population as follows:

1. Direct supervision of the respiratory care departments in all private and public hospitals in the Republic of Yemen and follow-up the application of the National guide of Respiratory Care Services.
2. Coordinate with public and private institutes and universities to establish and start a Bachelor of Science in respiratory care program.
3. Develop policies and procedures of work and job descriptions of RTs in respiratory care departments according to the international recommendations and follow up their application in healthcare institutions.
4. Supervising and planning external scholarship programs in the field of respiratory care specialty in cooperation with the concerned ministries.

5. Introducing the respiratory care specialization in Yemeni Medical Council as allied medical specialty and work on issuing Classifications certificates and licenses to practice the profession of respiratory care.
6. Organizing training and awareness programs related to respiratory care specialization in coordination with the concerned administrations to improve the medical services that provided to patients in need.
7. Issuing the manuals for consumables and medical machines and devices related to the specialty of respiratory care (as Ventilators... etc.) in cooperation with the relevant administrations.
8. Coordinate with local and international associations and organizations to develop the specialization of respiratory care in the Republic of Yemen.
9. Representation of respiratory care specialization in all local and international forums and conferences related to the specialization of respiratory therapy.
10. Raise the efficiency and competency of Respiratory care practitioners in all governmental and private hospitals through continuous medical education and training in accordance with the latest standards and evidence-based practices globally.

Here, I can say that the specialty of respiratory care in Yemen will witness a real revolution and development in the coming years, whether academically or clinically.

In this article, I am pleased to send my warmest thanks and words to all governmental and private hospitals that have initiated the opening of respiratory care departments in their hospitals.

I also extend my thanks and appreciation to all educational institutions that have initiated the education and training programs in the specialty of respiratory care and it comes in the first place of educational institutions Yemen Bilquis Medical Institute that considers the first ever educational institution started teaching in the respiratory care specialty with accredited Diploma in RT and it continues to supply the medical field with competent RTs to serve the critically ill patients.

The second institution teaches RT specialty is Faculty of Emergency Sciences and opening the first higher diploma respiratory care (3 years after high school).

### **Acknowledgement**

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