

**Spirometry – assessment, certification and register**

**FAQs**

1. Why do we need a National register – the current system seems to work fine?

*There is currently a range of different levels of training and competence amongst the people doing spirometry. We expect that introducing the scheme will raise the quality of diagnosis of respiratory disease because it will ensure that all practitioners involved in spirometry have their skills assessed.*

1. I am a GP who diagnoses respiratory conditions after colleagues have undertaken spirometry and interpreted it. Do I need to attend any training?

*No – the certification scheme only covers people performing and/or interpreting spirometry.*

3. I am a practice nurse who has attended a one day course on performing spirometry – will I have to go on a training course?

*You will have the choice of going on an accredited refresher course, or a more in-depth accredited course which leads to certification, or to have your skills assessed via the Experienced Practitioner Scheme.*

1. I am already on the ARTP register – after going on a spirometry training course a couple of years ago. How will this certification scheme affect me?

*You will have the choice of going on an accredited refresher course, or a more in-depth accredited course which leads to certification, or to have your skills assessed via the Experienced Practitioner Scheme. You would need to do this some time in the next four years in order to join the National register.*

1. I have been doing spirometry for years. If my name is not on the National register, will I be able to continue doing spirometry?

*It is expected that from March 31 2021, only those on the National register will be performing and/or interpreting spirometry. You could apply to be assessed under the Experienced Practitioner Scheme in order to join the National register.*

1. Can I undertake any training in order to join the National register or can I only take training from certain organisations?

*You can receive training from any training provider which is providing high quality training in diagnostic spirometry. ARTP accredited courses have assessment and certification built into them as an integral part of the course. If you were to have training that was not accredited, you would need to apply separately to be assessed and certified in order to join the National register.*

7. I have been interpreting spirometry for many years and it would be a waste of time for me to attend training. What impact will this have on me?

*The Experienced Practitioner Scheme is designed to provide an opportunity for experienced healthcare professionals to have their competence assessed without undertaking any training. If you are deemed competent in interpreting spirometry, you can join the National register. The EPS is described in detail in the document.*

8. Does this apply just to primary care or also to other healthcare professionals?

*It applies to all healthcare professionals who have not undertaken training in spirometry as part of their core professional training – e.g. hospital specialists, respiratory physiologists*

9. Spirometry is different in children – does this cover both adults and children?

*Spirometry is not as well established as a diagnostic tool in children as in adults. Therefore this document focuses only on its use in adults.*

10. What about the other nations? Why is this only England?

*NHS England led the work that led to the publication in 2013 of ‘the Guide to performing quality assured diagnostic spirometry’. They have been closely involved in the development of this assessment and certification process too. However their remit does not extend beyond England, so this scheme only applies to healthcare practitioners working in England.*

11. If we need to train up our practice nurse, who will pay for the training course?

*This may vary by the local area. In some areas the cost of training will be the responsibility of the practice or Trust; in others it may be that training is covered by another organisation, such as CCG, or Academic health science network. You need to check on local arrangements.*

12. If we don’t want to train someone up in our practice, what are our other options to ensure that our patients have access to diagnostic spirometry?

*The document is not prescriptive about the setting in which spirometry takes place, and it is recognised that providing a good diagnostic spirometry service may take different forms in different places. If you don’t have anyone certified in the practice to provide spirometry, other models of provision can be explored locally.*

13. What training courses are available in my area?

*All of the ARTP approved training courses dates and locations can be found at* [*http://www.artp.org.uk/en/spirometry/current-courses.cfm*](http://www.artp.org.uk/en/spirometry/current-courses.cfm) *. Other training courses may be available from other providers locally.*

14. What do I have to do in order to re-certify to remain on The National Register?

*The recertification process is outlined on the ARTP website for both new and existing members of the register – see* [*www.artp.org.uk/en/spirometry/reaccreditation.cfm*](http://www.artp.org.uk/en/spirometry/reaccreditation.cfm) *.*