Diagnostic Spirometry quotes September 2016

Monica Fletcher, Chair of the Stakeholder Group and Chief Executive of Education for Health

“The document sets out the framework for implementing the APPG recommendations: a common curriculum; quality assured training, assessment of healthcare professionals/operators to clearly defined standards and the establishment of The National Register of certified healthcare professionals. “This will ensure that everyone – patients, individual healthcare professionals and commissioners - is clear about the standards required.”

Professor Mike Morgan, National Clinical Director Respiratory, NHS England

“Diagnostic spirometry is provided many settings; general practice and community services as well as secondary care and workplace surveillance. Whatever the local service model, whoever performs and/or interprets spirometry should be certified as competent and follow the ARTP standards.”

Professor Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer, NHS England

“Any diagnostic test that influences the eventual diagnosis and treatment that a patient receives needs to be performed to recognised standards by competent professionals. This competency assessment framework builds on The Guide to Performing Quality Assured Diagnostic Spirometry published in 2013. We are currently working on an overarching guide to help CCGs in commissioning quality assured diagnostic spirometry.”

Professor Nigel Sparrow, Senior National GP Advisor and Responsible Officer, Care Quality Commission

“In our inspections of general practice, we need to assured that the staff have the knowledge, skills and competences required for their role. I hope the register and accreditation system will be an extremely useful way of helping them demonstrate this. Spirometry needs to be done to the required standard to ensure that patients are both diagnosed and monitored safely and effectively. This includes, not only the technical skills to do spirometry but also the knowledge and understanding required to interpret results.”

Dr Karl Sylvester, Honorary Chair, Association for Respiratory Technology & Physiology

“The Association for Respiratory Technology & Physiology (ARTP), through standards of training and quality assurance, are the professional guardians of physiological measurement issues in respiratory medicine in the UK. We are delighted that our standards are being adopted nationally, ensuring that individuals performing diagnostic spirometry will be deemed competent to the best quality standards possible. Quality assured diagnostic spirometry performed to these competency standards provides the best possible patient experience and outcome.”
Dr Lisa Davies, Consultant Respiratory Physician and Chair of the British Thoracic Society’s Board said:

“Early and accurate diagnosis of lung disease is absolutely vital in improving the respiratory health of the nation.

The British Thoracic Society believes this new ‘National Register’ has huge potential in helping us meet this goal by raising the quality of diagnostic spirometry across all health professionals who deliver it.

The equation is simple – quality assured, accurate spirometry will help bring about better lung health in many people. We hope partners, health professionals, NHS commissioners and patients can really work together to make this initiative a success.”

Dr Stephen Gaduzo, GP in Stockport and Chair of Primary Care Respiratory Society UK

“This document emphasises the importance of performing diagnostic spirometry to a high and consistent standard. It also recognises the difference between performing the test, interpreting the findings to provide a report, and the separate clinical skills involved in making a diagnosis using the patient's history and examination. The role and skill of the generalist is therefore not eroded but enhanced by the accuracy of the information provided by the test.

“Patients with respiratory symptoms deserve an accurate diagnosis in order to receive the correct treatment. If it leads to raised standards, more accurate diagnosis, and ultimately improved care and better clinical outcomes, we will have succeeded.”

Dr Andrew Whittamore, Clinical Lead at Asthma UK

“It is critical that people experiencing symptoms of respiratory diseases, including asthma, have access to accurate diagnosis so their health needs can be met with the appropriate health care. Poor quality diagnostic processes, which can lead to incorrect treatment decisions, not only cause both physical and psychological distress for many patients but also burden the NHS with unnecessary costs. This competency assessment framework establishes a required standard of practice for spirometry and should be used by clinicians and commissioners responsible for respiratory care to ensure all patients are diagnosed effectively, monitored, and receive the health care they need to have the best chance of living healthily and more safely.”

Dr Penny Woods, Chief Executive of the British Lung Foundation

“Spirometry is a key test for people who are awaiting confirmation on a diagnosis or are living with a lung condition. The procedure, if done correctly, aids early diagnosis, ensuring people receive the right treatment and care. We welcome this framework for quality assured training and consistent standards for spirometry operators and healthcare professionals. It’s so important that the spirometry is carried out accurately with proper interpretation of the results.”