

**Patient
Information**

Lung function tests

Introduction

The aim of this leaflet is to give you a brief understanding of what will happen when you come for lung function tests.

There are a number of different tests carried out in the department. All of the tests are designed to measure lung capacity, efficiency and airflow through the bronchi (main airways to the lungs).

The results of these tests combined with results from other tests, such as a chest X-ray, medical examination and clinical history, may indicate whether any abnormality is present.

The approximate length of time for your test will be shown on your appointment letter.

What to expect

On arrival at the department, your height, weight and age will be checked. This will help with calculating the results you would be expected to achieve.

All the tests will involve simply breathing normally combined with taking big breaths in and forcing air out.

At the consultant's request you may be given a bronchodilator, these are drugs that help to relax the airways. You will be asked to breathe them in through a nebuliser.

A nebuliser is a device that uses room air mixed with the medication to create a fine mist on which you will be asked to breathe. Depending on which drug you are given you will be asked to wait 20 to 45 minutes for it to take effect.

A repeat test is then done to check whether there has been any improvement.

We can also take a sample of blood to check the oxygen content. If this has been requested the sample will be taken from your earlobe, a completely pain free procedure.

Before the tests

Please avoid:

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Department

Lung Function

Review due

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- alcohol for 4 hours before
- a large meal for 2 hours before
- vigorous exercise for 30 minutes before
- smoking for 24 hours before

Do not wear restrictive (tight fitting) clothing for the test.

Please let us know before your tests if you have had any surgery in the last 2 months.

Once the tests have been completed the results will be sent to your consultant who will then discuss them with you at your next outpatient appointment.

Inhaler list

If you take any inhalers please refer to your appointment letter to see if you need to stop them. If we have requested you stop your inhalers please read the following guidance

If you take any of the following inhalers, do not take them for 6 hours before your appointment:

- Salbutamol such as Ventolin, Airomir, Combivent
- Terbutaline such as Bricanyl
- Ipratropium such as Atrovent, Combivent

If you take any of the following inhalers, do not take them 12 hours before your appointment:

- Tiotropium such as Spiriva
- Formoterol/Eformoterol such as Foradil, Oxis, Symbicort
- Salmeterol such as Serevent, Seretide

If you feel unwell without your inhalers and know that you cannot cope without taking them; please take the inhalers.

Contact information

Lung Function Department

Gloucestershire Royal

Tel: 0300 422 6819

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

Cheltenham General

Tel: 0300 422 4313

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

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Further information

Website: <http://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/en/Wards-and-Departments/Departments/Thoracic-Medicine1/Lung-Function-Sleep-and-GI-Service/Lung-Function/>

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