



Pulmonary Function Tests

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about procedure: (319) 221-8500

What are Pulmonary Function Tests?

Pulmonary function tests are a painless way to measure how well your lungs are working. A complete series has 3 tests. You may be given the entire series or only certain parts.

Why should I have Pulmonary Function Tests?

Pulmonary function tests are performed for many reasons. The results of the tests may explain why you are short of breath, what type of lung problem you have, how smoking may have affected your lungs and whether breathing problems are a risk during general anesthesia.

Preparation:

Please review with your doctor or your doctor's nurse.

- Eat only a light meal and limit fluids before your test.
- If you are having this test for the first time hold your long acting inhaler at least 48 hours prior to testing. If possible hold your short acting inhaler 8 to 12 hours prior to testing. If you are holding a long acting inhaler you may use your short acting inhaler 4-6 times a day.
- If you use an inhaler for breathing problems bring it with you on the day of the test.
- Wear loose fitting clothing that doesn't restrict your breathing.
- Report any recent upper respiratory infections, colds, sinusitis, bronchitis or pneumonia.
- Please bring a photo ID

Procedure:

You will be seated in a chair or the testing. If ordered, a blood sample may be taken from an artery in your wrist. You will wear nose clips so you can only breathe through the mouthpiece that will be in your mouth. You should make a

tight seal around the mouthpiece with your lips.

The Respiratory Therapist will then coach you through a series of breathing techniques, including taking a deep breath, holding it and then blowing out hard and fast. A lung specialist interprets the results and a copy is sent to your family physician.

Plan to allow 2 hours from arrival to the time you can leave.

Outpatient Registration:

Please park in the Mercy Parking ramp located at 8th Avenue and 8th Street SE. Enter the hospital at the South entrance on ground floor. Proceed to the Lung Center.

Your appointment date and time: