

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Lung function tests

Your doctor has requested that we perform a test on your breathing to help guide your medical treatment.

Doctors commonly request this test to:

- See if you have any lung disease.
- Measure the severity of lung disease.
- See if medication will make your breathing better.
- Test your lung function before an operation.

The procedure

You will be asked to breathe in and out of a machine; you will be seated during all the tests. There are three main tests you may be asked to perform one or all of the three tests:

1. Measurement of the size or volume of air in your lungs.
2. Measurement of how well oxygen travels from your lungs into your blood. For this you will breathe in until full and then hold your breath for 5-10 seconds.
3. Measurement of the speed you can breathe out by asking you to blast the air out of your lungs as quickly and as long as you can.

The doctor may also wish us to take a small sample of blood from your earlobe to measure your oxygen levels.

Please bring with you a list of your current medications.

Before the test

Before attending for your lung function test, please:

- Do not do any vigorous exercise for 30 minutes.

- Do not wear any tight clothing that may restrict your breathing.
- Do not smoke for at least one hour.
- Avoid eating a heavy meal or drinks containing caffeine for two hours.
- Do not drink alcohol for four hours.

Please continue to take all prescribed medication as normal.

Please contact the department if you have experienced any of the following:

- A current or recent chest infection (within the last two weeks).
- Recent eye, stomach or chest surgery (within six weeks).
- A heart attack within the last month.
- Have attended an Emergency Department in the last two to three days.
- Chest pain on the day of your test.

Please allow up to one hour for this appointment.

Results

The results will go to your doctor who will explain them to you at your next clinic visit. Please note that you will not be given the results at the time of the test.

What if I need hospital transport?

You will need to arrange transport by telephoning the following numbers between 7am and 9pm, Monday to Saturday (please use the number for the area you live):

- Nottinghamshire: 0345 266 9662
- Derbyshire: 0300 300 3434
- Lincolnshire: 0848 357 1556.

Contact details

Respiratory department:

- Telephone 01623 672484
- Email sfh-tr.respiratoryandsleep@nhs.net

King's Mill Hospital
Mansfield Road
Sutton in Ashfield
Notts
NG17 4JL

Newark Hospital
Boundary Road
Newark
Notts
NG24 4DE

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net

To be completed by the Communications office
Leaflet code: PIL202512-05-LFT
Created: January 2018 / Revised: December 2025 /
Review Date: December 2027