



*Better
Together*

Patient information

Pulmonary Function Test

Cardio Respiratory Department

Royal Liverpool Hospital and Broadgreen Hospital

PIF 775 V3

Your Consultant / Doctor has advised you to have Full Pulmonary Function Tests (Full PFT's)

What is a full pulmonary function test?

Full pulmonary function tests are a series of breathing tests that measure various aspects of your lung function. You will be asked to breathe into a machine through a mouthpiece for all of the tests and at times, you will be asked to breathe hard.

There are three parts to the tests. Altogether, they should last no longer than 45 minutes. You may also be tested to see if you have a reaction to a bronchodilator (such as Ventolin), this could take a further 45 minutes.

What are the benefits of having a full pulmonary function test?

The aim of the Full PFT is that the tests will provide detailed information about how your lungs are working and give us information about the cause of your illness, as well as how to manage it.

What are the risks of having a Full PFT?

This is a very safe test. If you have had a heart attack, a stroke or surgery in the past, please tell the staff before the tests.

Are there any alternative tests available?

To obtain the information required from this test there are no alternative treatments available.

What will happen if I decide not to have this test?

Your level of service will not be affected if you decide not to have the test. However, your doctor/consultant will not be able to obtain the necessary information that would have been gathered from performing the test.

Getting ready for your test:

- Do not eat more than a light snack within two hours of the test
- Do not smoke for 24 hours before your test
- Do not drink alcohol for at least six hours before the test
- Avoid vigorous exercise for at least 30 minutes before the test
- Do not stop taking any of your medications unless your doctor has told you to do so.

Before the test

If you are taking any bronchodilators (inhalers) for your breathing you will need to stop taking them before your test **if you feel able to do so.**

Stopping times are:

- Four hours for Ventolin/Salbutamol or Terbuterline

Not all inhalers need to be stopped only the inhalers stated above

Further Appointments

There will be no further appointments for this test. However, your results will be discussed at your next clinic appointment.

Further Information:

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