

Patient data

What information do you have about the patient and their risk of respiratory disease?

Is the test data correct – do the gender and age match?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Number of blows

Does the report show a minimum of three blows?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If pre- and post-bronchodilator blows are shown, what is the elapsed time between tests?

Time

Quality of blows

Are there any errors in the blows?

Reproducibility

What is the reproducibility of the blows?

To be acceptable, results should meet Grade A criteria (or Grade B in occasional, highly variable patients).

☐

Grade A: 100 mls or less between the best two values of FEV₁, FVC, VC from three good blows

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Grade B: 101-150 mls between the best two values of FEV₁, FVC, VC from three good blows

☐

Grade C: 151-200 mls between the best two values of FEV₁, FVC, VC from three good blows

☐

Grade D: less than 200 mls between the best two values of FEV₁, but less than three good blows

☐

Grade E: unacceptable blows

Shape of graphs

What do the size and shape of the graphs suggest?

For example, are they concave or scooped?

Are they smaller than the predicted normal for this subject?

Presence of obstruction

Does the graph shape(s) indicate obstruction?

Does the FEV₁/VC or FEV₁/FVC (whichever is greater) support this?

Extent of reversibility

If the test shows pre- and post-blows, what is the extent of any improvement?

An improvement in FEV₁ of ≥12% and a volume increase of ≥200mLs is usually considered a positive result

%

mLs

Fits clinical picture/presentation

Do the test findings fit the clinical picture?

Do they support or conflict with the diagnosis suggested by the symptoms, risk factors and examination/imaging?

	Normal	Obstructed	Restricted	Mixed/combined
FVC	>80% pred	>80%	<80%	<80%
FEV ₁	>80% pred	<80%	<80%	<80%
FEV ₁ /FVC or FEV ₁ /VC	>70% or >LLN	<70% or <LLN	>70% or >LLN	<70% or <LLN

Adapted from 'A guide to performing quality-assured diagnostic spirometry (PCC 2013)'. Reproducibility grades adapted from Ferguson G, Buist S, Higgins M. Office spirometry for lung health assessment in adults: A consensus statement from the National Lung Health Education Program. Chest. 2000; 117:1146-1161

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