

Preparing for Your Exam: Pulmonary Function Test

What is a pulmonary function test?

Pulmonary function testing measures how well you are breathing. There are different types of breathing tests that can be done during pulmonary function testing. They include spirometry, lung volumes, and diffusing capacity. Spirometry can show how much air you can breathe in and out. It also shows how fast you can breathe in and out. Lung volumes can provide further information about how your lungs are functioning. Diffusing capacity can show how well your lungs move oxygen from the lungs to the blood. There are also airway challenge tests that assist your doctor in determining the presence or absence of asthma. The results of pulmonary function testing can help your doctor find the best treatment plan for you.

How do I prepare for the test?

Please follow these directions when getting ready for this test. These medicines will affect the results of some of these tests and need to be stopped before the testing is done. If the medicine is not stopped before the test, we will not be able to complete the test.

- Stop these **inhaled** medicines for **24 hours** before your appointment:
 - Advair® (Serevent® and Flovent®)
 - Serevent® (Salmeterol)
 - Foradil® (Formoterol)
 - Spiriva® (tiotropium)
- Stop these **inhaled** medicines for **6 hours** before your appointment:
 - Atrovent® (Ipratropium), Combivent®
- Stop these **inhaled** medicines for **4-6** hours before your appointment:
 - Proventil®, Ventolin® (Albuterol), Xopenex® (Levalbuterol), Maxair® (Pirbuterol), Alupent®, Metaprel® (Metaproterenol), Brethaire®, Brethine® (Terbutaline), Tornalate® (Bitolterol), ist.
- Stop these **oral** medicines for **8 hours** before your appointment:
 - Volmax®, Ventolin®, Proventil®, Proventil Repetabs® (Albuterol), Metaprel® (Metaproterenol), Bricanyl®, Bethaine® (Terbutaline)
- **Continue to take all other medications as usual.**

Please call the MANA Pulmonary Lab if you have any questions – 479-582-7216.