



ARTP

Association for
Respiratory Technology
& Physiology

Changes to the delivery of training and assessment for quality assured diagnostic spirometry

With the realistic likelihood of an increase in spirometry training requirements, it has been necessary to overhaul our current method of training and assessment for those wishing to be deemed as competent to perform quality assured diagnostic spirometry and appear on the national spirometry register. The projected numbers of individuals needing to be trained means continuing to offer a 2-day face to face training course via accredited centres and for these centres to then undertake the portfolio and practical assessments will become unrealistic. Outlined below are the planned changes to the official ARTP pathway to attaining competency in quality assured diagnostic spirometry and hence then appearing on the national spirometry register. Please note that these changes are for ARTP accredited trainers, other, non-accredited, training routes and courses available for individuals may differ.

Accredited centres versus accredited individuals

ARTP are moving away from having accredited spirometry training centres and will now centralise the process by having accredited individuals instead. These individuals may already be accredited by ARTP by being part of an accredited centre and consequently will not need to re-accredit. What will be required is an agreement from such individuals to offer themselves to deliver a number of half-day practical skills workshops, mark portfolios and be practical assessors. All of these will be centrally organised with venues chosen regionally and in proximity to accredited trainers and assessors. The portfolio is electronic and can be accessed at any time.

To help streamline the process, trainers/assessors will need to provide dates for the year ahead that they will be available to undertake training and assessments. Venues will then be booked around these dates and in venues within 30 miles of the trainers/assessors registered address.

In addition individuals can put themselves forward as roving trainers/assessors and can stipulate how far they would be prepared to travel (outside of the agreed 30 mile radius). Expenses for this travel will be expected to come from the remuneration received to undertake the training and assessments.

Some candidates may reside a long distance from a training/assessment centre or even overseas. These candidates will be expected to make their own arrangements to attend a venue of their choice. This will be clearly stated in the guidance to candidates before they sign up to any ARTP spirometry programme.

Delegate booking

Delegates will register to undertake the e-learning modules via the Institute of Clinical Science & Technology (ICST) website. At the same time they will book themselves on to a practical skills workshop and their practical assessment. Dates and venues for these will have been pre-populated on the ICST website from dates agreed by accredited trainers/assessors. It is expected that a maximum of twenty delegates will be allowed to book on each skills workshop and practical assessment date with two trainers/assessors. If less than 5 are booked within one month of either event then the date will be cancelled and delegates asked to book another date.

Half day practical skills workshop

The content for the workshop will be generated centrally by ARTP via a standardised slide set. This will form the basis of discussions and reinforce some of the material taught on the online course. ARTP envisage that most of these sessions will consist of practical demonstrations of how to perform and troubleshoot spirometry measurements. Level 2 interpretation does not include a workshop.

Delegates will be requested to bring their own spirometers and consumables to the workshop to ensure they receive the training on the devices they will be using in every day practice. It is expected that delegates that do not bring their own device will be able to train using their peer's equipment. Trainers will also be asked to bring a device as another back up. The trainer's spirometer should be able to show the parameters required for testing, allow the correct number of measurements to be made and display flow-volume loops /volume-time graphs (can be one at a time for the candidate to choose).

Accredited trainers will be asked to provide a minimum of two dates they will be available in any one calendar year to attend practical skills workshops to maintain their accredited status.



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e-Portfolio

Each accredited trainer will be required to mark a minimum of ten e-portfolios per year (if this number are available to be marked) in order to remain accredited. This will obviously be dependent on the number of portfolios being submitted for assessment.

All the portfolios will be accessed online using your unique login details. To ensure a streamlined and easy process for the assessor, ARTP will provide the criteria by which each portfolio needs to be marked so the assessor just needs to check the appropriate evidence is available and check either an "evidence present" check box or "evidence not present". There will be a comments section so details of what evidence is missing can be entered.

Trainers/assessors will be approached via random allocation when a minimum of 5 portfolios become available for them to mark. Assessors will need to mark their portfolio allocation within 2 weeks of the portfolio submission date and adherence to this will be audited.

Trainers/assessors may be approached on an individual basis should a large number of portfolios become available to mark, to ensure they have capacity to mark more than the minimum number prior to being allocated the workload.

Practical assessment (OSCE)

Trainers/assessors will make themselves available to assess at an OSCE. These will be centrally organised for trainers to allocate themselves to as assessors, either within their agreed location radius or as a 'roving assessor'. If a roving assessor the same remuneration rules apply as the training workshops.

During the OSCE, the assessor will be expected to be the first 'patient' to be tested. For subsequent assessments the previous delegate will be the patient, unless there are mitigating circumstances that they can't do this, in which case the assessor will make themselves available again.

There is currently no plan to have a coordinator at the OSCE as this works well for our partners at Education for Health.

Remuneration

For undertaking the half-day practical workshop, individuals can claim £350 for a minimum of 10 delegates. For marking portfolios individuals can claim £15 per portfolio.

For assessing at the OSCE, individuals can claim £350 per half day with an expected delegate number of 10.

Therefore, if individuals wish to assess fewer delegates then these will be claimed at £35 per delegate.

Trainer/Assessor Requirements

Each ARTP accredited trainer/assessor should:

1. Have a qualification relevant to the performance of spirometry, e.g. ARTP spirometry certificate, ARTP associate and/or practitioner examination, clinical physiology (respiratory & sleep) degree or minimum PTP qualification.
2. Demonstrate experience in a clinical or educational role relevant to the performance and/or teaching of spirometry.
3. Agree to commit to a minimum of two practical skills workshops, two practical assessments (OSCE) and mark ten e-portfolios per year where delegate demand warrants.
4. Bring at least one of their own spirometers to the practical skills workshop.
5. Attend the online train the trainer webinars which happen every 2 years
6. Be willing to train with a maximum ratio of 10:1 candidates for the practical skills workshop components.
7. Be willing to assess with a maximum ratio of 10:1 candidates for the OSCE.
8. Be aware they will need to make their own taxation arrangements

ARTP will commit to:

1. Providing initial online training outlining the new process, giving guidance on delivery of the half day practical workshop, marking of the e-portfolios and the OSCE process, so everyone delivers training and assessment to the same standard.
2. Providing a standardised slide set for use at the practical skills workshop.
3. Provide the venues for both the practical skills workshop and OSCE in regions across the UK based on demand from candidates.
4. Organise distribution of portfolios for marking to practical assessors.
5. Handle all candidate queries and other administrative duties associated with the national spirometry register.
6. Provide updates and refreshers a minimum of every two years to ensure continual best practice in training and assessment to the expected standards.
7. ARTP indemnity insurance will cover all trainers and assessors.