

Certification and Re-certification

Once certified, healthcare professionals should record their qualification on the National Register.

Certification is valid for 3 years, after which re-assessment is required to remain registered as competent to practice. Further training is NOT mandatory to re-certify.

Those currently on The National Register as at 1 April 2017 will remain on it for 3 years., after which re-assessment of competence will be required as above.

Further information on re-certification is at <http://www.artp.org.uk/en/spirometry/reaccreditation.cfm>

This leaflet has been co-produced by:

Asthma UK
British Lung Foundation
British Thoracic Society
Association for Respiratory
Technology & Physiology
Association of Respiratory Nurse
Specialists
Education for Health
NHS England
Primary Care Respiratory Society UK

September 2016

Timetable

The new framework is being implemented over the 4 years from 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2021, to allow time for the necessary training, assessment and certification infrastructure to be set up.

Further Information

Further details about the competency assessment framework can be found at <https://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/article/quality-assured-diagnostic-spirometry>



Improving the quality of diagnostic spirometry in adults:

The National Register of certified professionals and operators



Association of Respiratory
Nurse Specialists



Why we need a competency assessment framework

Spirometry is one of the essential lung function investigations in the diagnosis, severity assessment and monitoring of many respiratory conditions. Diagnostic spirometry has to be performed to a high standard, otherwise the diagnosis might be wrong—resulting in patients receiving inappropriate treatments (which could be harmful) as well as wasteful.

So diagnostic spirometry should be both:

- quality-assured
- only performed and interpreted by professionals assessed as competent against ARTP standards

The National Register

Most people will attain competency by attending training, applying their learning into the clinical setting and then being assessed as competent. There are 3 categories in The National Register, corresponding to the 3 levels of competency assessment:

- Foundation (performing tests only)
- Full: (performing tests & interpreting results)
- Interpretation Only

The routes to achieve a certificate of competence in each category are shown in the diagram opposite.

Initial Certification

Inexperienced individuals not on The National Register should undertake the appropriate training and assessment.

Experienced Practitioner Scheme (EPS)

The EPS enables those with significant experience in performing spirometry (with

or without interpretation) confirmed as competent by having their skills assessed against ARTP standards.—without attending any specific training.

Experienced individuals not already on The National Register should undertake the assessment appropriate to the level. If unsuccessful, refresher training may be required.

