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*Information for You from Your Health Care Team*

## **Pulmonary Function Testing**

### **What is pulmonary function testing?**

Pulmonary function testing is a series of tests that tell your doctor how well your lungs work. These tests do not diagnose specific lung diseases but tells the doctor if your lungs have a disease and where it is in your lungs. These tests can help your doctor decide what treatment to use and if the treatment is working. Below are some questions this test can answer.

### **What information can the pulmonary function test provide?**

- Is lung disease present?
- What type of lung disease is present?
- How bad is the lung disease?
- Is there more than one type of disease present?

### **How can the pulmonary function test help with treatment?**

- Is the disease reversible?
- What treatments will help most?
- How much will treatment help?

### **Preparing for the pulmonary function test:**

If you are taking breathing medicines, you should not use them for at least four hours before your test begins. You should also write down a list of medicines you are taking and any allergies you may have. Before your test your health care providers will need to know your symptoms. They will also need to know if you smoke or have quit smoking, where you work and what the air is like at your work place and any other information that may relate to your current condition.

Reviewed 12/08

References: Eagan's Fundamentals of Respiratory Care  
November 2004

**Speak Up at any Time if You Have Questions or Concerns**