

Information about Pulmonary Function Tests (PFT)

Pulmonary function tests (PFTs) measure how well your lungs are working.

There are different kinds of PFTs. Your doctor has ordered one or more of these tests for you.

- **Spirometry Test.** This measures how air flows in and out of your lungs.
- **Lung Volume Test.** This measures how much air your lungs hold.
- **Diffusing Capacity Test (DLCO).** This measures how your lungs take oxygen and move it into your blood.
- **Arterial Blood Gas Test.** This is a blood test. It looks at the pH level of your blood, and how much oxygen and carbon dioxide are in your blood.

PFTs tell us about your lungs.

There are lots of reasons doctors order a PFT. Depending on your condition, your doctor may ask you to take PFTs more than once.

- PFTs help find early signs of lung disease, before problems start.
- PFTs check on your lung health before a surgery.

PFTs may help explain:

- Why you're short of breath.
- If you have a lung disease, such as asthma or chronic bronchitis.
- How materials such as chemicals or coal dust affected your lungs.
- How medicines and treatments are affecting your lungs.

What happens after a PFT?

About 3 days after your Pulmonary Function Tests (PFT), the doctor who ordered your test will get a final report from a lung doctor (pulmonologist).

A copy of the results of your PFT will also go in your medical file at UNMH.



Talk to your doctor about your PFT results.

Your doctor will use your test results to learn more about your lungs. If you have lung problems, the test results will help your doctor learn more about those problems.

Ask your doctor about your test results. Your doctor might use words like normal, mild, moderate, or severe to talk about lung problems. If you're not sure what your test results mean, ask your doctor to explain them.



Questions? Call us! We are here to help.

Our hours: Monday – Friday, from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Call us: 505-272- 0274

Our location:

The 2nd Floor of the Family Medicine Building

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