

Contents of the spirometry training programme for general practitioners and practice assistants

General practitioners*		Practice assistants	
First training session	Time		Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General aspects of COPD and asthma (e.g. pathophysiology, epidemiology) • Indications for spirometry in general practice 	30'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General aspects of COPD and asthma (e.g. basic pathophysiology, treatment) 	30'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiology of the respiratory system, spirometric indices, flow/volume curve 	40'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basics of respiratory physiology, spirometric indices, flow/volume curve 	20'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic aspects of spirometry test performance (measurement technique)[†] 	20'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic aspects of spirometry test performance (measurement technique)^{†,‡} 	30'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of Microloop spirometer and Spirare software 	15'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of Microloop spirometer and Spirare software 	15'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising pre-bronchodilator spirometry in small groups 	30'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising pre-bronchodilator spirometry in small groups 	55'
	+		+
	150'		150'
Second training session			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of first session 	30'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of first session 	25'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of spirometric indices and flow-volume curves 	40'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing experiences and problems encountered with spirometry in practice 	15'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of clinical case examples 	60'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic aspects of spirometry test performance (measurement technique)^{†,§} 	20'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation and organisation of spirometry 	20'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspects of inhalation technique, instruction on use of Volumatic spacer and salbutamol pMDI, incl. practising 	30'
	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising pre- and post-bronchodilator spirometry in small groups 	60'
	150'		150'

*Instructors in GP course: pulmonologist, pulmonary physiologist, general practitioner, lung function technician; instructors in practice assistant course: pulmonary physiologist, general practitioner, lung function technician

[†]Special attention for errors commonly made during spirometry in general practice {1959} {2459} and markers of acceptability and reproducibility of manoeuvres {2183}

[‡]A videotape with examples of both good and bad subject instruction and execution of spirometry tests was used

[§]Special attention for judging the flow-volume curve with respect to acceptability of manoeuvres

pMDI = pressurised metered dose inhaler.