

To: All practices Surrey and Sussex LMCs

16<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Colleagues

**Diagnostic Spirometry in Adults**  
**The National Register of certified Professionals & Operators**

The NHS is establishing a National Register of certified healthcare professionals to *assure* the competence of those who undertake and interpret diagnostic spirometry; this will be used to ensure spirometry testing meets the standards of the Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology (for further information on ARTP, please see [www.artp.org.uk](http://www.artp.org.uk)).

There will be a gradual introduction of the Register, which will not be a mandatory requirement until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The Register will specify three categories of certification, these being:

- Foundation: assessed as being competent to perform safe, accurate and reliable spirometry tests without interpretation.
- Full: assessed as competent to perform and interpret spirometry in terms of physiological changes
- Interpretation Only: assessed as competent in interpretation only, for those who are not required to perform testing itself.

Once the register is fully in force, three-year recertification will be required.

More details on the register, and certification process, are available at:

[https://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/sites/default/files/articles/attachments/improving\\_the\\_quality\\_of\\_diagnostic\\_spirometry\\_in\\_adults\\_the\\_national\\_register\\_of\\_certified\\_professionals\\_and\\_operators.pdf](https://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/sites/default/files/articles/attachments/improving_the_quality_of_diagnostic_spirometry_in_adults_the_national_register_of_certified_professionals_and_operators.pdf)

At present no requirements for spirometry to be performed under GMS/PMS Core Contracts, DGSs or QOF, but it may be required under various respiratory locally commissioned services, and CCG Commissioners will be expected to introduce certification under the National Register for medical nursing and other healthcare professionals who undertake and interpret spirometry. The costs of such certification and ensuing such practice staff have time to undertake the required training will need to be incorporated into LCS costings and the LMC will be providing further advice on this, since this will be a mandatory expectation.

The link below provides FAQs on the process:

Local Medical Committees for  
Croydon, Kingston & Richmond, Surrey,  
East Sussex and West Sussex

The White House    T: 01372 389270  
18 Church Road    F: 01372 389271  
Leatherhead  
Surrey KT22 8BB    [www.sslmcs.co.uk](http://www.sslmcs.co.uk)

<https://www.educationforhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/Spirometry-FAQs.pdf>

However, GPs should note the following advice:

**I am a GP who diagnoses respiratory conditions after colleagues have undertaken spirometry and interpreted it. Do I need to attend any training?**

No - assuming that, the persons performing and interpreting spirometry in your practice are registered appropriately. There is an interpretation only part of the register which GPs can be placed on by submitting a 'mini' portfolio of traces that have been interpreted (£95). This assessment has been set at national level. This can also be undertaken as part of a one-day workshop (£200) which includes the assessment fee, advice on what the assessment entails as well as training around interpretation.

There is a clause within the Registration arrangements that permits those who are currently experienced to be accepted on the Register; further details are in the 2-links given above.

Colleagues should note no such certification is required in relation to the delivery of essential or additional core contract patient care.

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Julius Parker  
**Chief Executive**