**REMINDER: Practices to refer their patients to Spirometry clinics which have been implemented for Primary Care patients.**

Practices have had a challenging year and have faced immense pressure to support rapidly changing health priorities as a result of the pandemic. To support general practice to manage the existing spirometry backlog, the CCG has commissioned temporary spirometry testing to diagnose patients’ respiratory conditions, which is additional to that commissioned in the basket of services, through both University Hospitals Derby & Burton (UHDB) and Derbyshire Community Healthcare Services (DCHS).

* UHDB clinics will initially be available at Royal Derby Hospital, providing midweek and weekend sessions. Options for further Community Hospital locations are being explored.
* DCHS clinics will initially be held at Whitworth and Clay Cross Hospitals. All sessions will be midweek.

**General practices are therefore asked to:**

* Contact their patients to check that they still require spirometry and advise patients that they are being referred for spirometry. There are currently a high number of patients not attending or cancelling their appointments. This may be because their respiratory symptoms have resolved.
* Refer their patients that are awaiting spirometry for diagnostic purposes. Due to the backlog, wherever possible, please prioritise patients and do not refer patients that have already been diagnosed. Refer patients via NHS e-RS referral on SystmOne or EMIS. The referral form is on both systems. The UHDB and DCHS spirometry clinics can be found under the Speciality of ‘***Diagnostic Physiological Measurement*’** and the Clinic Type of ‘***Respiratory-Full Lung Function*’**. The clinic will be called ***‘GP Direct Access Spirometry’*.** **Please note:**
	+ The referral form should be completed, and the exclusion criteria in the form followed (this will prevent any referrals being rejected). [Refer to the FAQ document below] The referral criteria has changed slightly so if you have had a referral rejected previously, you may be able to re-refer your patient.



* + If patients require spirometry with reversibility testing, and have their own Salbutamol MDI Inhaler and spacer, please ask the patient to take them to their spirometry appointment.
* If patients require patient transport the Practice should arrange this. Please book a midweek session if patient transport will be used.
* On receipt of the spirometry test result, undertake interpretation in practice, and
* Administer appropriate treatment and/or refer for onward management if clinically indicated.

For further information, please contact the Strategic Clinical Conditions team via ddccg.conditionsspecific@nhs.net:

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