

Spirometry Learning Australia - Competency Assessment Course

Overview

Spirometry is recommended as an indispensable tool to aid in the diagnosis and monitoring of chronic airways disease.

Spirometry Learning Australia (SLA) has designed and developed a suite of comprehensive educational and training resources to provide health professionals with the expertise, practical skills, and confidence necessary to obtain quality assured spirometry measurements and achieve competency in point-of-care (POC) spirometry testing.

The SLA – Competency Assessment course is compliant with Australian & New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science (ANZSRS), Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand (TSANZ) and American Thoracic Society & European Respiratory Society (ATS/ERS) spirometry testing standards.

Who is it for?

Participants may include nurses, clinicians, scientists, health workers and healthcare providers who conduct spirometry testing from tertiary health, general practice, and industrial workplaces in both metropolitan and regional, rural and remote settings.

Outline:

The SLA-CA course incorporates on-line educational resources, a practical skills workshop and assessment of competency by experienced respiratory scientists.

Online education resources

The on-line components are self-paced and include presentations, video segments and interactive case-based resources. Learning outcomes are objectively assessed.

Approximate time for completion: 5-6 hours

Practical Skills Workshop (face-to-face or virtual workshop sessions available).

The practical skills workshop is facilitated by experienced respiratory scientists and respiratory health professionals and uses an interactive and practical approach to reinforce the key concepts.

Duration: 4 hours (virtual workshops can be held as 2 x 2-hour sessions)

Review of participant self-assessments (Spirometry Assessment Tool)

Self-assessments of participant's spirometry test results are reviewed by experienced respiratory scientists. The Spirometry Assessment Tool has been designed and developed by Spirometry Learning Australia to standardise self-assessment and simplify reviewer feedback to the participant.

A minimum of two patient spirometry tests should be conducted every two weeks in the participant's usual workplace. Assessments are typically submitted over a 3-month period to confirm competency in spirometry testing.

Cost: \$385 per participant

**Includes 12-month subscription to online resources*

Continuing Professional Development: Health professional CPD points are available.

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Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of the SLA-CA course, participants should have a good understanding of the following concepts:

- Indications for spirometry
- Physiology and pathophysiology of obstructive and restrictive ventilatory defects
- Definitions of the indices to be measured: FEV₁, FVC, FEV₁/FVC ratio & PEF
- Data represented on flow-volume curves and volume-time spiograms
- Use of predicted reference values
- How patient demographics relate to spirometry measurement
- Spirometer settings and technical considerations
- Quality Assurance concepts including calibration & verification of the spirometer device and use of Biological Controls
- Pre-test requirements including assessment of relevant contraindications, considerations for testing and potential complications
- Test performance including operator instructions for testing, ATS/ERS criteria relating to the acceptability of patient test performance, ATS/ERS criteria relating to the repeatability of test measurements, common causes of poor-quality spirometry, trouble-shooting patient related issues and assessment of bronchodilator responsiveness
- Health service and Infection Control standards
- Pattern recognition of normal and abnormal flow-volume curves
- Differentiation between normal and abnormal spirometric values
- Case-based application of interpretative strategies

Practical Skills Workshops

- Practical skills workshops are available as either face-to-face or virtual sessions.
- Virtual practical skills workshops are designed primarily for regional, rural and remote participants who find it difficult to attend face to face sessions.
- Workshops are 4 hours duration and adhere to the 1:5 trainer-to-participant ratio recommended by the 2017 ANZSRS Position Statement on Spirometry Training Courses (local COVID-19 restrictions at the time may influence total workshop numbers).

If COVID-19 restrictions do not permit a f-2-f workshop, then this will be replaced with a series of webinars and a virtual/online practical skills session.

The dates of these workshops can be negotiated on an individual or group basis.

Spirometry testing, evaluation and feedback via the Spirometry Assessment Tool

- Self-assessment of test results is made using the Spirometry Assessment Tool (SAT) designed and developed by Spirometry Learning Australia. Completed SATs and accompanying test reports are submitted for respiratory scientist evaluation at the end of each fortnight.
- Ongoing feedback of these evaluations will be given to participants at regular intervals throughout this period
- *A minimum of 10 accurate spirometry assessments are required to achieve competency*

For further information about the SLA-Competency Assessment course

contact us via email: spirometrylearning@gmail.com

or visit our website: <https://www.spirometrylearning.com.au>