



Association for Respiratory
Technology & Physiology
Breathing Inspiration and Quality into Respiratory Healthcare



THE ARTP/BTS FOUNDATION & FULL CERTIFICATE IN SPIROMETRY

In recent years the number of health care professionals, other than laboratory based lung function technicians, performing relatively simple lung function measurements has gradually increased. Although nationally agreed standards have been published for the performance of lung function tests, spirometric measurements made in a variety of primary and secondary health care settings by staff, other than those formally trained and in lung function laboratories, often falls well below the acceptable standard. With the recent publication of guidelines for the care of patients with COPD, in addition to those already published for Asthma, a greater emphasis is placed on basic lung function measurements at all levels of health care provision.

To ensure that patients are appropriately investigated and monitored the Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology (ARTP) in conjunction with the British Thoracic Society (BTS) through the BTS/ARTP Liaison Committee have established a qualification to assess the competence of practitioners to perform such measurements.

ARTP/BTS Foundation Certificate in Spirometry

The ARTP/BTS Foundation Certificate in Spirometry has been introduced to give a recognised national qualification for those practitioners who regularly **perform** spirometry **without** interpreting the results. This is a practical competence certificate.

Completion of a 1 day Foundation spirometry training course or the Completion of Spirometry E-Learning is required before the Foundation Certificate programme can be undertaken.

A list of ARTP/BTS approved Spirometry centres and proposed course dates can be found on the ARTP website (www.artp.org.uk) or by contacting the ARTP Administration office at the address below.

Aim and format of the Foundation Certificate:

To provide a competence based assessment for the measurement of spirometry

The assessment consists of the following elements:

- 1) *Portfolio of evidence*
- 2) *Practical and oral assessment*

On registration for the Foundation Certificate you will be sent your candidate number, the ARTP Spirometry handbook (if purchased) and guidelines for completion of the Foundation Certificate including information regarding compilation of the portfolio.

You will have six months to complete and submit the portfolio.

When the portfolio has been successfully completed the ARTP Administrator will contact the candidate and arrange a date and place of the practical and oral examination. Deferrals will only be granted under serious circumstances and only one Deferral is allowed. Candidates must apply to the Spirometry Administrator in writing at least two weeks before a decision is made.

After your form has been received there is a 4 week period where you are able to cancel free of charge. After this any cancellations will incur a £30 administration fee.

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