

August 19, 2016

# FridayFocus

## When do COPD patients need spirometry testing?

More than 24 million American adults suffer from COPD, 5.5% of these patients live in Texas. A spirometry test is often used in conjunction with a pulmonary function test to confirm a COPD diagnosis and to determine the level of severity. While most providers are aware that this test is needed during the initial diagnosis of the disease, it is often overlooked later, during exasperation of COPD.

NCQA recommendations are for patients to receive a spirometry test when they receive “a new diagnosis of COPD or newly active COPD” (Use of Spirometry Testing in the Assessment and Diagnosis of COPD, 2015). When is a patient’s COPD considered newly active? If a patient is being treated for COPD for the first time within a two-year period, their COPD is considered newly active.

NCQA recommends repeating spirometry testing if a patient has not been seen for their COPD or has not had spirometry testing done at least once within the two years prior to the exasperation.

A good way to ensure you are following the NCQA guidelines is to include the COPD diagnosis during annual checkups and wellness visits and repeating spirometry testing whenever an exasperation of COPD occurs. Checking on a patient’s COPD diagnosis annually can be a good way to catch any signs of worsening and an opportunity to implement treatment changes as early as possible.

To learn more about spirometry testing or COPD, please visit <http://www.copdfoundation.org>.

As always, we appreciate your ideas and feedback. Thank you for the quality work you do.

All editions of the Friday Focus are available on the SWHP website: <https://swhp.org/en-us/prov/news/providers-friday-focus>.



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### References

*Use of Spirometry Testing in the Assessment and Diagnosis of COPD*. (2015). Retrieved 2016, from [www.ncqa.org](http://www.ncqa.org/report-cards/health-plans/state-of-health-care-quality/2015-table-of-contents/spirometry): <http://www.ncqa.org/report-cards/health-plans/state-of-health-care-quality/2015-table-of-contents/spirometry>

### Code to Identify COPD

Description	ICD-10 Code(s)
<b>COPD</b>	J44.0, J44.1, J44.9
<b>Chronic bronchitis</b>	J41.0, J41.1, J41.8, J42
<b>Emphysema</b>	J43.0-J43.2, J43.8, J43.9

### Code to Identify Spirometry

Description	CPT Codes
<b>Spirometry</b>	94010, 94014-94016, 94060, 94070, 94375, 94620

