

Spirometry Interpretation Checklist

- Check **patient data** correct?
 - Check name, age and sex recorded correctly
 - Check ethnicity correction
 - Has BMI been recorded

- Are Recordings **Reproducible**
 - Is relaxed capacity VC (RVC, EVC) recorded
 - Number of blows. 3 forced & 3 relaxed?
 - Best 2 recordings of FEV1 and FVC should be within 100mls of each other.
 - Has the best effort been selected?
 - Look at the traces. Any evidence of cough, short blow etc?

- Look at **values**
 - Look at the ratio FEV1/FVC. Is it greater than 70% or 0.7
 - FEV1 and FVC - %predicted
 - FVC > VC?
 - Ratio of FEV1 to FVC (or VC if higher)

- **Reversibility** (only if clinically appropriate!)
 - Do values return to normal range?
 - Is there >400mls improvement in FEV1

Post-bronchodilator value	Obstruction	Restriction	Combined
FEV1	Use to grade	<80%	<80%
FVC	>80%	<80%	<80%
Ratio	<70%	>70%	<70%

- NICE grading of COPD severity: post bronchodilator

FEV1 80% or above & Symptoms	Mild
FEV1 50 – 79% predicted	Moderate
FEV1 30 – 49% predicted	Severe
FEV1 <30% predicted	Very Severe

Remember spirometry values correlate poorly with degree of disability