

CNWL COPD Spirometry Service Update

There will be changes to CNWL's spirometry provision from 1 June 2018.

Since May 2017, in addition to their core COPD services, CNWL now provides a hospital in-reach service, a domiciliary smoking cessation service and a home oxygen service.

In order to provide these additional services, from Friday 1 June 2018, CNWL will provide quality assured spirometry tests along with interpretation guidance and the results will be sent to the patient's GP for clinical interpretation and diagnosis.

The referral process to CNWL will continue with a prerequisite of handheld spirometry carried out in primary care prior to referral.

If diagnostic uncertainty remains with the GP after clinical interpretation, CNWL can provide full clinical assessment for the patient including additional spirometry, interpretation and diagnosis.

To help primary care colleagues prepare for this change, CNWL has delivered three spirometry interpretation training sessions over the last six months. CNWL will continue to provide this training on a yearly basis.

The CNWL COPD team are happy to receive any spirometry queries by email (respiratoryteam.cnwl@nhs.net).

We hope you understand the need to prioritise services we commission so that COPD patients across Camden receive more specialist care, where most needed.

If you have any questions about this change please contact CCG Senior Commissioning Manager Olivia Waller (olivia.waller@nhs.net).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which spirometry services will CNWL provide for Camden patients?

CNWL will accept referrals for spirometry testing, after the patient's GP has completed handheld spirometry in the practice.

The CNWL spirometry service is not a diagnostic service. Diagnosis will be done by the patient's GP. However, CNWL will provide interpretation guidance as part of this service. This will comprise:

- comment on quality of the test from the technician
- comment on all values (FEV1 and FEV1%, (F)VC and (F)VC%, FEV1/(F)VC ratio) both pre- and post- test if completed

- interpretation advising if the spirometry has a normal/obstructive/restrictive or mixed picture, or is un-interpretable due to poor quality.

The GP will then need to correlate this with clinical examination of the patient to confirm a diagnosis.

If diagnosis is unclear after this process is complete, CNWL can provide a full clinical assessment for the patient including spirometry testing, interpretation and diagnosis.

A referral to secondary care will be required for more complex patients requiring additional lung function testing, imaging, interpretation, and diagnosis.

2. I was told that spirometry services would no longer be provided by CNWL. Why is the service being reintroduced?

CNWL were due to stop providing the service at the end of September 2017. Following feedback from GPs, CNWL has agreed to provide spirometry testing without diagnosis.

3. Why can't CNWL provide diagnostic services for all referrals?

CNWL is providing other enhanced COPD related services. In addition to their core COPD services, since May 2017 the service's remit expanded to include a hospital in-reach service, a domiciliary smoking cessation service and a home oxygen service. Prioritising these services has helped COPD patients across Camden with the greatest need receive more specialist care.

4. Has the referral criteria for CNWL spirometry testing changed?

No – under the previous service, GPs were asked to complete handheld spirometry before referring to CNWL.

5. Who conducts the spirometry testing at CNWL?

Spirometry testing is carried out by trained healthcare assistants. Interpretation guidance is provided by a Respiratory Medicine Consultant.

6. Is spirometry training available from CNWL for Camden general practices?

Yes, CNWL will provide annual training. Three training sessions have been provided in the last six months.