

# What Are Pulmonary Function Tests (PFTs)?

Pulmonary function tests (PFTs) are a group of tests that measure how well your lungs work. This includes how well you're able to breathe and how effective your lungs are able to bring oxygen to the rest of your body.

Your doctor may order these tests:

- if you're having symptoms of lung problems
  - as part of a routine physical
  - to monitor how effective your treatment is if you have a lung disease, such as asthma
  - to assess how well your lungs are working before you have surgery
- PFTs are also known as spirometry or lung function tests.

If you already have a condition that's affecting your lungs, your doctor may order this test to see if the condition is progressing or how it's responding to treatment.