



Diffusing capacity of Lungs for Carbon Monoxide (DLCO)

Spirometry is the most common and widely used lung function test, followed by diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO). DLCO is a measurement to assess the lungs' ability to transfer gas from inspired air to the bloodstream.

Exam Information:

- Please wear comfortable clothing
- Take your daily medications prior to testing unless told otherwise
- Do not smoke for at least six hours prior to testing
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment to register
- Bring a current written list of medications
- If you are using a short-acting inhaler that is used only as needed, do not use for six to eight hours prior to testing, if possible
- The exam requires you to be NPO (without food/drink) from midnight before the exam, till after the exam is completed

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Upon arrival, you will be registered and escorted to the Cardiopulmonary Department where you will be asked about your medical history. If lab work is needed, it will be completed prior to the exam. The portion of the exam takes about 10 minutes of the 30-60 minute PFT exam.

Please call (865) 446-8100 if you have questions regarding your exam preparation. A Therapist will explain the procedure prior to the exam and help answer questions. If you have scheduling concerns, please call (865) 374-4000.

***Results should be available within 48 hours, either through your personal patient portal or your ordering provider**