

7.02 Respiratory Diagnostics incorporating a detailed Diagnostic Review and Report

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Background: A community based diagnostic spirometry service that included a detailed respiratory symptom and clinical history assessment, was undertaken by Respiratory Physiologists in a recent pilot Sláintecare project. This service has been expanded to include full lung function tests when required and the detailed diagnostic report is available to both the referring GP and the Respiratory Integrated Care (RIC) team.

Methods: Respiratory Physiologists are ideally placed as providers of respiratory diagnostics to carry out this detailed assessment and offer 'next step' recommendations to GPs, thereby providing an enhanced community based service for patients. Referrals to other RIC professionals are made when appropriate, improving overall access to the Respiratory Integrated Care service. Clinical governance is provided by the Respiratory Consultant.

Results: 41% of total patients (n=76) were referred to the GP with no further input from the RIC team required. 31% of patients required follow up by the respiratory CNS. 28% required a consultant appointment or input (*figure 1*). 6% were referred to smoking cessation and 38% required further PFTs.

Conclusion: This advanced practice initiative supports the ECC model by providing GPs and the RIC team with crucial high quality diagnostic information. The community based service provided by the Respiratory Physiologist is an important component of RIC services.

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Figure 1: Patients seen by Respiratory Physiologists and referrals

