

Introduction to Spirometry testing for Occupational Health setting

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Spirometry is one of the most commonly used approaches to test pulmonary function. It measures exhaled air volume versus time. The majority of Occupational health nurse professionals require a good skill and competence in performing spirometry in the workplace that form part their additional qualifications in Occupational health. The knowledge acquisition related to spirometry testing theory and processes, allows them to feel equipped with knowledge and skills needed for a qualified Occupational health nurse. Most Occupational Health nurse post-graduate programmes entail spirometry/audiometry. It is therefore vital that the student is supported with the acquisition of adequate and sufficient spirometry testing knowledge, in preparation for their Occupational Health nurse journey. The recent transitioning of courses and programmes within the tertiary environment onto the various higher levels of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), has made it more necessary for students and aspiring students to equip themselves with knowledge that will allow for this transition. The Short Course in Spirometry has been structured and positioned to close this gap.

TARGET AUDIENCE

For nurses that want to bridge the learning gap from a Junior/Undergraduate degree to Occupational Health Nursing qualification (NQF8)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After attending the course, the participants will be able to demonstrate general understanding of:

- Describe the normal anatomy and physiology of the respiratory tract as it applies to respiration.
- Explain the pathophysiological differences between obstructive versus restrictive disorders of the respiratory system and give examples for each.
- Correctly prepare a client for a lung function test.
- Accurately demonstrate the calibration of a spirometer.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the technique used to perform a lung function test on a client.
- Instruct a client on how to correctly perform the lung function test manoeuvre.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the standards that need to be met in order to ensure acceptability and repeatability of results achieved after the performance of a lung function test.
- Plan an effective respiratory protection programme for workers in an occupational setting.
- Describe the common errors that occur while performing a lung function test and explain how to avoid these errors.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the content of the SANS 451:2008 standard.

DELIVERY METHOD

This initiative developed and run by the Department of Nursing allows candidates to engage and participate in arrange of activities to enrich and support their spirometry knowledge and learning. Sessions can include guest presenters on particular topics of interest, discussions around key spirometry areas, practical demonstration and practical exercises. The course will be run over 4 study day periods to be facilitated at weekly (weekly intervals).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Course applicants must possess matric certificate or its equivalent as a minimum qualification and relevant experience in different fields including: occupational nursing

DURATION

Structured lecture discussions/theory sessions of the course Short Course in spirometry will be offered over four (4) study days in 8-hour sessions weekly. This means that the student will attend this online course, one (1) day every week. Students will also be required to present work that was done on the previous week to fellow students and prepare for spot test weekly. The duration of each study day/session will be from 08h00-16h00.

ENQUIRY CONTACT

- **Application enquiries / bookings:** Ms. Philiswa Dlamini. Tel: 031-373 6017, philiswad@dut.ac.za / Ms. Mantobeko Dlamini. Tel: 031-373 2606, CynthiaD1@dut.ac.za
- **Content enquiries:** Dr N Naranjee. Tel: 031- 373 2036, NellieN1@dut.ac.za / Mrs. J Maritz JulietteM@dut.ac.za
- **General enquiries:** scu@dut.ac.za