

ID: 0407
Age: 45
Pre-Test
Variable
Number

Vitalink

VOLUME FOUR

THE GOLD STANDARD IN RESPIRATORY TECHNOLOGY

The Financial Benefit of Spirometry

With Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Asthma effecting more people each year, the value of routine spirometry testing becomes increasing more important, especially for smokers and those with allergies.



Aside from the benefit of routine spirometry testing for the patient, there can also be a benefit for you, the provider.

Reimbursement is available through a variety of applicable CPT Codes specific to spirometry both in a clinical setting and in general physician setting.

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Catch-22: Spring Fever

He comes into the office with bloodshot eyes that are itchy and tearing, runny nose, sneezing, wheezing, coughing, difficulty breathing and speech that is difficult to understand due to his congestion. He is a typical hay fever sufferer and he is in the office for immediate eradication of his symptoms. This patient is one of our yearly visitors. Literally, the same time, same symptoms, and same attitude. He wants our help but it has to be on his terms. This is a perfect example of a non-compliant patient. There are many more.

Working in an allergy office has it's moments, and lots of them. However, for the most part, it is a routine and well-organized environment. We see patients for regular checkups, spirometry, bronchodilator studies, RAST testing and skin testing for various allergens, telephone correspondence and acute work-in appointments.

The work-in appointments are for acute illnesses, such as asthma or severe allergies, etc. The majority of these patients are really sick and need to be assessed and treated right away. The minority of these patients tend to fall into the seasonal allergic non-compliant category.

For instance, a patient called because she was suffering from severe allergy symptoms. She was asked if she had started her allergy medications that were prescribed for her seasonal allergies. She said she ran out of her medications last fall and forgot to call to get more because she was not

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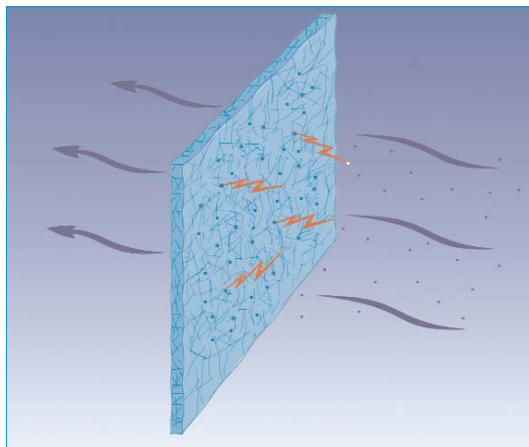
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Static Electricity

the secret behind Bacterial Viral Filters

Besides protecting the patient, bacterial viral filters (BVF's) eliminates the need to clean the equipment between patients, providing peace of mind to both the patient and the medical practitioner. But do you know how and why they work so effectively? Static electricity.



An electrostatic filter medium uses static attraction technology and mechanical action to trap small particles such as bacteria and viruses. These particles are transmitted from infected patients in their exhaled breath, as minute water droplets. The electrostatic nature of the special membrane trap these minute water droplets, resulting in a highly-effective filter, eliminating potential cross-contamination with 99.99% efficiency.

Vitalograph disposable BVF's are now improved with a reduced effective dead-space of 65mL and lower back pressure. The unique square shape allows efficient use of high-technology and expensive filter medium, resulting in less waste and therefore, a lower price.

BVF's come in a variety of sizes and adapters are available to fit most pulmonary function testing equipment. Also available are a wide variety of disposable mouthpieces and consumables available for all your pulmonary function testing needs. For more information about BVF's, please visit the Vitalograph website at www.vitalograph.com or call Vitalograph customer service at (800) 255-6626 for more information.

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The CPT Codes listed in the chart below are the most common codes used for used for spirometry testing.

Test	CPT Code	Description
FVC	94010	Spirometry, including graphic record, total and timed vital capacity, expiratory flow rate measurement(s), with or without maximal voluntary ventilation (MVV)
FVC	94060	Pre/Post spirometry for the purpose of bronchospasm evaluation. This is the same as 94010 with the addition of a nebulizer treatment delivering a bronchodilator.
FVC	94375	Respiratory Flow Volume Loop, includes expiratory and inspiratory portion of loop.
MVV	94200	Maximum breathing capacity, maximal voluntary ventilation.
MVV	94070	Prolonged post-exposure evaluation of bronchospasm with multiple spirometric determinations after test dose of bronchodilator or antigen with 94010.

For more information on CPT Codes and Reimbursement, visit the American Medical Association website at www.ama-assn.org.



Employee Spotlight

Wayne Donovan joins the Vitalograph team



Wayne Donovan replaces Bob Martinez as Vitalograph Technical Service Manager. He has over 25 years manufacturing and electronic experience. Prior to Vitalograph, he was employed at Bremson Data systems, manufacturer of electronic and mechanical equipment for 15 years.

Wayne is actively involved with his church and enjoys building and flying RC airplanes. We are pleased to welcome him to our team.

Bob Martinez is now Project Manager for Vitalograph's Clinical Trial division.

Exhibitions

April 20 - 24

Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP)
Atlanta, Georgia

May 18 - 23

American Thoracic Society (ATS)
San Francisco, California

June 17 - 21

Drug Information Association (DIA)
Atlanta, Georgia

June 28 - 30

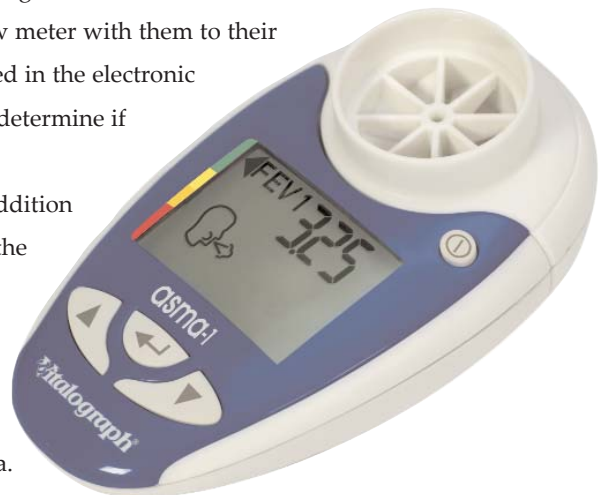
COPD5 International Conference
Birmingham, England

Electronic Peak Flow Meters make monitoring and managing asthma a breeze!

With an electronic peak flow monitor, data is automatically stored, date and time stamped, and evaluated for test quality. All the patient needs to do is perform daily testing to monitor their asthma, follow their personal action plan, and bring the electronic peak flow meter with them to their next appointment. The physician then reviews the data stored in the electronic peak flow meter to monitor the patients progress as well as determine if modification or changes in treatment are necessary.

Electronic peak flow meters also provides FEV₁ in addition to PEV. FEV₁ is considered by many asthma specialist to be the best indicator of an impending asthma attack providing an early warning helping to avoid a severe attack.

The Vitalograph asma-1 electronic asthma monitor is affordable, small and light weight, making it convenient and easy for the patient to monitor and manage their asthma. For more information, please call (800) 255-6626.



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uncomfortable until now. This patient is the type who forgets how miserable she becomes every fall when ragweed blooms!

We deal with people everyday who are fine all year and then one day they are sicker than a dog, so to speak, and we are their only friends in the world. They are sure we can help them but it has to be today. It's amazing the way they will put off making an appointment all year, all 365 available days, until the very day they are practically dying from their allergies!

Sometimes we will be talking to a patient on the phone, telling them how full our schedule is and that we can only see them at a certain time, but they may have an hour wait because they are being worked in. Then, the patient will tell us that that time will not work for them and will give us a time.

It is basically just like rush hour traffic. Everyone wants in and there is no room! Sometimes you just have to laugh it off and pick up the next phone call.

Article contribution by Andy Farris, an asthma, allergy and immunology nurse in Kansas City.



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of Vitalograph Inc.

Your questions and comments
regarding this newsletter are welcome.

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