

Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation

The Respiratory medicine department runs one of the busiest clinics in the Lakeshore Hospital Ambulatory center. In 2025 with 2 full time Spirologists working in the LGH ambulatory center there were 8432 scheduled appointments with a total of 6777 completed assessments (1654 no shows) and now with the addition of a 3rd Spirologist in this clinic, the numbers will continue to grow.

The backbone of the Respiratory clinic is the Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT) Lab as PFTs are essential for the diagnosis, follow up, and management of almost all major Respiratory disorders including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Asthma, and Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD). PFTs are also frequently required on an urgent bases for Oncology to assess for possible thoracic surgery and to monitor for treatment side effects. Aside from providing an initial diagnosis, many individuals require testing multiple times per year to monitor disease progression and response to treatment.

Currently we have one Pulmonary Function Test "body box" at LGH and we have one set up at Ste-Annes. The LGH PFT lab handles all the "in house" requests from the Lakeshore based Spirologists and the lab at Ste-Anne's handles requests from MDs outside of Lakeshore. The testing capacity at Ste-Annes is limited by staffing, however the testing at LGH is limited by equipment.

At the moment the LGH PFT labs is able to perform 140 PFTs per month, however the in-house demand from our Spirologists is closer to 300 per month. We have the space and the RTs and with the addition of a second PFT body box we can effectively double our output to closely match demand and decrease wait times. Extra testing time appointment slots can be added as well based on staffing levels.

With the addition of a second PFT body box we will also be able to include other testing not currently offered, such as asthma specific tests (Methacholine challenge) that we currently have to send out to the MUHC. We also will be able to leave some testing time slots open and use them for same day testing for new consults, which will limit the need for unnecessary repeat visits. Finally, we will implement a server so all 3 PFTs testing devices (2 at LGH and 1 at Ste-Anne's) can be connected remotely and patient data can be shared and accessed from any of the sites.

In summary, the Respiratory Medicine Ambulatory clinic is one of the busiest clinics at LGH and works with a very vulnerable patient population that requires close follow up and frequent testing. The addition of a 2nd PFT body box at Lakeshore will enable the clinic to continue to expand and provide rapid service with minimal wait times. We will also be able to provide more testing that previously had to be referred to the MUHC, thus allowing more care to be provided in the West Island.

Thank you for taking the time to review this proposal.

Sincerely,

Matthew Shorofsky MD.CM FRCPC
Internal Medicine and Respiriology
Associate Chief, Department of Specialized Medicine, Lakeshore General Hospital
Lakeshore Site Chief, Respiriology