

## **Pulmonary Function Tests**

Pulmonary function tests (PFT's) are used to measure how well your lungs work, figure out a cause for your lung problems, and figure out the best treatment.

### **When you might need a pulmonary function test:**

- When you have an illness involving the lungs
- To follow changes in your lung function over time
- If you have been exposed to chemicals over a long period of time
- To check lung function before having surgical procedures
- History of smoking
- To ensure the treatment of your lung issue is working

### **What happens during the procedure?**

- You will be given a soft nose clip to wear to ensure your breaths will go through your mouth instead of your nose
- You will be given a germ-free (sterile) mouthpiece. It will be attached to a machine that measures you breathing
- You will be asked to do various breathing maneuvers. The maneuvers will be done by breathing in (inhaling) and breathing out (exhaling). You may be asked to repeat the maneuvers several times before the testing is done
- You may be given a medicine that helps open the airways in your lungs to make it easier to breathe
- The test will be repeated after the bronchodilator has taken effect
- You will be monitored carefully during the procedure for faintness, dizziness, trouble breathing, etc.
- Your results will be given to your primary care provider which will determine the best treatment