

Spirometry and COPD

Source: Global Initiative for Obstructive Lung Disease. Global strategy for the diagnosis, management, and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Global Initiative for Obstructive Lung Disease*. 2013.

<http://www.goldcopd.org/guidelines-global-strategy-for-diagnosis-management.html>

Key indicators for spirometry screening:

- Dyspnea—progressive or persistent
- Chronic cough—may be intermittent
- Chronic sputum production
- History of exposure to tobacco smoke

NOTE: Since FEV₁ / FVC ratio declines with age, avoid over-diagnosis in the elderly (especially with milder symptoms).

COPD Severity	Spirometry Measurements	
	FEV ₁ % Predicted	FEV ₁ / FVC Absolute Ratios *
Normal	≥ .80	≥ .70
I: Mild	≥ .80	< .70
II: Moderate	.50 – .79	< .70
III: Severe	.30 – .49	< .70
IV: Very Severe	< .30	< .70

* FEV₁ / FVC refers to absolute ratios, not percent predicted.