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Title: Spirometry training courses are not enough to achieve quality spirometry in the community

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Body: Community diagnostic spirometry should be performed at the same standard as a respiratory laboratory. In 2008 our 10-year-old training course was altered to include a post-course quality review to qualify for spirometry certification. Aim: To review the effectiveness of a quality review after spirometry training. Methods: We audited attendees at our spirometry courses and portfolio submissions. The portfolio required 10 tests and technical comments; spirometry pattern; and quality control logs. We required 90% in all criteria and those who failed could resubmit. Results: 2-day and refresher spirometry courses were reviewed including 107 practice nurses, 59 occupational health nurses and 27 regional hospital technicians. We found similar trends for the three groups. The portfolio first submission (22%, 30%) and pass rate (33%,62%) for the 2- and 1-day courses respectively were low.

Portfolio Submissions

	1st	2nd	3rd
2-day course (124 attended)	27 (9 passed)	11 (4 passed)	2 (2 passed)
1-day refresher (69 attended)	22 (14 passed)	2 (1 passed)	1 (1 passed)

Discussion: The number seeking feedback on spirometry practice was low with 24% submitting portfolios. Poor compliance was probably because spirometry certification is not compulsory in New Zealand. This review suggests a spirometry course alone is insufficient to achieve quality spirometry, or there are deficiencies in our course content or delivery. A failed portfolio provided additional learning because some resubmissions were successful. The low submissions and passes for the portfolios are a concern. We need to encourage excellence in community spirometry and maybe legislation to make spirometry certification compulsory is the way forward.