(A) Policy Statement:
The terms, symbols, abbreviations, and metrology definitions used when referring to pulmonary function procedures, test reporting, and test interpretation are based on a report of the American College of Chest Physicians / American Thoracic Society (ATS) and European Respiratory Society (ERS) Joint Committee on Pulmonary Nomenclature. Metrology definitions used are in accordance with the International Standards Organization (ISO) recommendations.\(^1\) \(^ii\) \(^iii\)

(B) Purpose of Policy:
To provide uniform and clear reference to technical and clinical staff responsible for performing pulmonary function test procedures and interpreting of their results.

Selected Specific Terms

1. **Accuracy** is the closeness of agreement between the result of measurement and the true value.
2. **Reproducibility** is the closeness of agreement between the results and successive measurements of the same method, same observer, same instrument, same location, same condition of use, and time. If a test subject is given a bronchodilator drug and tested again after period of 20 minutes, one needs to know the reproducibility of the test in order to make a decision of comparison.
3. **Repeatability** is when a technician tests a subject several times.

Selected Symbols and Abbreviation

**Spirometry**

*FVC*: Force vital capacity

*FEV1*: Forced exhaled volume in one second

*FEF25-75*: Mean forced expiratory flow between 25% and 75% of forced vital capacity

*FEFmax*: Maximal forced expiratory flow rate
FIVC: Forced inspiratory vital capacity

FIFX%: Instantaneous forced inspiratory flow at point where X% of the FVC has expired

**Lung Volume**

TLC: Total lung capacity

SVC: Slow vital capacity

FRC: Functional residual capacity

TGV (or VTG): Total thoracic gas volume

IC: Inspiratory capacity

ERV: Expiratory reserve volume

RV: Residual volume

**Diffusing Capacity**

DLCO: Diffusing capacity for the lung measured using carbon monoxide, also known as transfer factor

DLCOcor: Diffusing capacity adjusted for hemoglobin

DLCO/VA: Diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide per unit of alveolar volume, known also known as KCO

**Body Plethysmography**

Raw: Airways resistance

sRAW: Specific airways resistance (resistance / unit of lung volume)

Gaw: Airways conductance

sGaw: Specific airways conductance (conductance / unit of lung volume)

**Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing**

AT: Anaerobic threshold

HR: Heart Rate

MET: Metabolic equivalent
O2 pulse: Oxygen pulse

PETCO2: End-tidal Pco2

PETO2: End-tidal PO2

RFR or R: Respiratory exchange ratio:

RQ: Respiratory quotient

Spo2: Arterial oxygen saturation as indicated by pulse oximetry

VD: Physiologic dead space

VD/VT: Ratio of physiologic dead space to tidal volume

Vo2: Oxygen uptake (consumption)

VE: Minute ventilation

VE/MVV: Ventilatory Reserve

VE/VO2: Ventilatory equivalent for oxygen

VE/VCO2: Ventilatory equivalent for carbon dioxide

VT: Tidal volume

WR: Work rate or power

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**Selected Metrology Definitions**

BTPS: Body temperature, ambient pressure, saturated with water vapor

L: Liters

L/min: Liters per minute

L/sec: Liters per second

mL: Milliliters

Hz: Hertz; cycles per second

Lb: Pounds weight
### Approved by:

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**Review/Revision Completed By:**
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**Next Review Date:** 3/1/2020

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