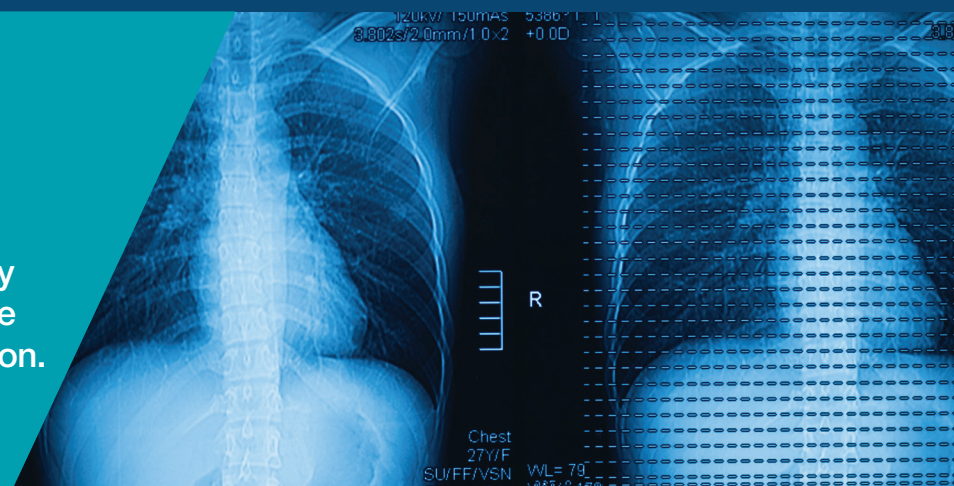


Respiratory health investigations

You may be referred to a respiratory physician if further assessments are required to diagnose a lung condition.



What is a respiratory physician?

A respiratory physician (respiratory and sleep specialist) is a medical professional who specialises in diagnosing, treating and preventing conditions and diseases that affect the respiratory (breathing) system.

Your referral

Lung diseases can be difficult to diagnose.

The results from your chest x-ray, complex lung function test (CLFT) and/or high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) scan have indicated that further assessments are required.

The respiratory physician can provide:

- an advanced assessment of abnormal test results
- a diagnosis
- advice on treatment and a medical management plan.

The respiratory physician is NOT responsible for determining your fitness for work.

Scheduling an appointment

CS Health will send the referral directly to the respiratory physician, who will then contact you to arrange an appointment.

What to expect

The respiratory physician will review your test results, gather a detailed medical and work history and perform a physical examination.

They may also recommend repeating certain tests and/or ask for a blood test to rule out other conditions. You may need to attend multiple consultations before a diagnosis is determined.

Costs

There is no cost to you when you are referred by CS Health.

CS Health will pay for your consultation with the respiratory physician and will also cover the costs of specific tests that the respiratory physician may request. These tests are limited to:

- HRCT scan (initial and progress scan)
- Pulmonary lung function testing
- Pathology blood test
- Follow-up consultations to establish diagnosis.

If the respiratory physician requests a test or procedure not listed above, please contact the Clinical Investigations Team on 1800 274 633.

Note: CS Health does not cover the cost of any other procedures or consultations with associated specialists (e.g. biopsy procedures, sleep studies, cardiologists).



Where do I need to go?

CS Health currently refers to respiratory physicians located in the Hunter Valley, Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong.

Do I need to do anything to prepare for the appointment?

The respiratory physician will explain what to do before your appointment.

Does my employer need to know?

Your privacy is important to us. CS Health needs your written consent to share any health information, including referrals, with your employer. However, telling your employer may make it easier for you to attend appointment(s).

CS Health will give you consent forms to sign and email to csh.lunghealth@coalservices.com.au

Can I continue to work?

If your tests suggest possible evidence of respiratory disease, you may need to work under restricted conditions while further clinical investigations continue and until a clear diagnosis is made.

When do I get my test results?

The respiratory physician will go over your results with you during your appointment.

The respiratory physician's report will be reviewed by a CS Health Medical Officer and the Clinical Investigation Team to assess your fitness for work and determine if any work restrictions are needed.

A CS Health Medical Officer will contact you to explain the results, recommendations and how these may affect your Order 43 certificate. You may need treatment, regular spirometry and ongoing health monitoring to help manage your condition and protect your respiratory health.

Your certificate will be finalised after this discussion.

What support is available?

Being referred to a specialist or for further tests can be stressful.

A CS Health team member will support you through this time. We will contact you to explain the referral process and discuss the support options available to you.

You can also contact your workplace's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for support.

What happens next?

When a diagnosis is confirmed, your general practitioner (GP) will be informed so that they can provide ongoing care and management of your condition. CS Health needs your written consent to share any health information, including referrals, with your GP.

If the diagnosis is linked to workplace exposures in coal mining, we will recommend you contact Coal Mines Insurance to discuss the workers compensation process. CS Health can assist you with this.

CS Health is also required by law to notify the NSW Resources Regulator.

If at any time you are uncertain or have any questions, please contact us on 1800 274 633 or email csh.lung@coalservices.com.au

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