Indications for pulmonary function tests prior to cardiac surgery

Pulmonary function tests (either formal studies in Pulmonary function laboratory or basic spirometry in the first instance) must be performed if any of the follow are present:

- history of COPD or asthma,
- current or recent (within last year) smoking history,
- recent chest infection,
- patient symptomatic of lung condition.

If spirometry shows that FEV1 and FVC are > 70% predicted and if the chest x-ray (or CT scan, if done for another reason) shows normal lung fields without overexpansion, Transfer Factor (DLCO) measurement is not required.