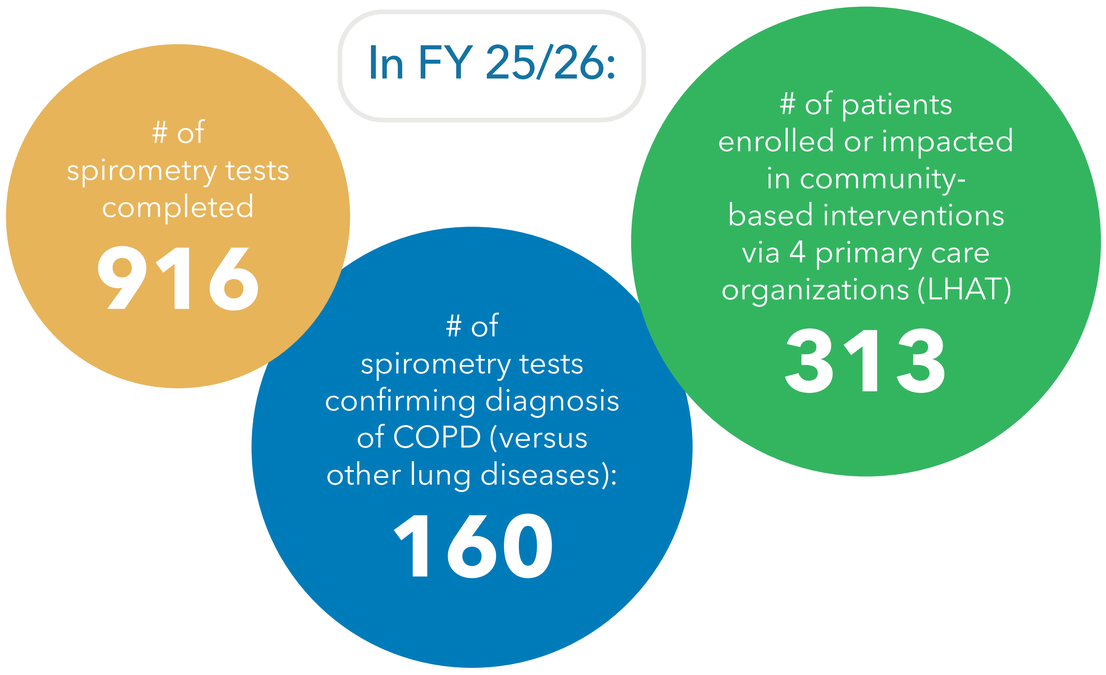


Lung Health Action Team

HPE OHT Collaboration

The **Lung Health Action Team (LHAT)** brings together primary care organizations to deliver standards-based care for people living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Through evidence-informed practice and collaboration, LHAT helps ensure patients receive equitable, high-quality care across our region. Recognizing historical inequities in access to spirometry testing, LHAT is working collaboratively to reduce barriers and address variable wait times across our communities.



As part of Interprofessional Primary Care Team expansion within HPE OHT, LHAT has been focusing on addressing challenges commonly experienced by primary care physicians and nurse practitioners (NPs). This includes improving access to spirometry testing closer to home, reducing wait times through community-based certified spirometry testers.

Certifying health-care staff from separate primary care organizations to work as one cohesive team and offer spirometry testing to patients across primary care comes with challenges. However, through the goodwill of participating organizations and their willingness to think outside the box, LHAT is progressing toward a model that improves system efficiency, makes services more accessible to patients and providers, and promotes consistency in practice.

LHAT is developing a Regional Spirometry Team made up of certified spirometry testers from HPE OHT partner organizations. The team will be available to primary care offices that need access to this specialized testing or are experiencing lengthy wait times.

By pooling resources and working together on shared tasks, HPE OHT partners can improve efficiency, make better use of existing expertise, and promote equitable access to care across our communities.

Partners working within the HPE OHT Lung Health Action Team have benefited from learning from one another, sharing challenges and exploring solutions to a common goal. Collaborative work takes time, but it is encouraging to see partners willing to move beyond “the way things have always been done” and embrace new approaches that benefit everyone – patients, staff and primary care providers.

Hastings Prince Edward
Ontario Health Team