

Patient Information Leaflet

What is the National Lung Cancer Audit?

This is a national clinical audit assessing the quality of services and care provided to patients with lung cancer in England and Wales. The National Lung Cancer Audit (NLCA) collects clinical information about the treatment of all patients newly diagnosed with lung cancer in England and Wales and information about their outcomes. The Audit's findings will give us a better understanding of how patients are being looked after. This will help NHS hospitals to improve the care they provide to lung cancer patients.

What is clinical audit?

Clinical audit is a method that health care professionals use to look at and improve patient care by comparing how patients are treated and the outcomes of care against set standards and guidelines.

In a clinical audit, information on the care received by patients is collected and analysed to see if individual clinicians and hospitals are following national clinical standards, such as those published by the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#). These audits also produce information for hospitals to compare their outcomes of care with other hospitals.

Who is running the NLCA?

The national clinical audit is run by the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) of The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng). The audit is also delivered in partnership with the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery, the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation representing lung cancer patients and their carers, the Lung Cancer Nursing UK and the British Thoracic Oncology Group. We are funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme. The day to day running of the NLCA is based at the RCSEng and is managed by a project team including clinicians, audit experts and cancer information specialists.

Why is the NLCA looking at the care of patients with lung cancer?

Lung cancer is one of the most common and serious types of cancer with over 44,500 new cases diagnosed each year in the UK. Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in the UK after breast cancer and is the commonest cause of cancer-related death. The National Lung Cancer Audit was developed in response to the findings that outcomes for lung cancer patients in the UK lagged behind those in other westernised countries, and varied considerably between organisations in the UK.

We want to make sure that patients with lung cancer receive the best care throughout England and Wales. We communicate our findings to hospitals about the areas of lung cancer they are doing well in and where they could improve. The results will be available to the public and patients.



Who takes part in the NPCA?

All NHS hospitals in England and Wales that offer lung cancer care participate in NLCA.

Which patients are included in the NLCA?

The NLCA started in 2005 and includes all patients diagnosed with lung cancer in England and Wales.

What information is collected?

We use information about patients that is collected by national organisations in England and Wales. These organisations include the [National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service \(NCRAS\)](#) in England and the [Wales Cancer Network](#). These organisations are allowed to collect data on patients diagnosed with cancer. Information on how to opt out of data collection is provided [here](#).

Who will benefit from this audit?

The aim of the audit is to improve the care received by patients with lung cancer. We will do this by making recommendations to lung cancer services based on our findings. For example, the NLCA may make recommendations on:

- How patients are diagnosed
- The treatment patients receive
- The use of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy
- Outcomes following treatment

We will make the results of the audit publicly available, including on our website (currently in development).



How are patients involved in the NLCA?

We work closely with patient representatives on many aspects throughout the project, from deciding what information to collect to how the results are reported.

Want to know more?

If you would like more information on the audit please get in touch.

National Lung Cancer Audit

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