



Royal College
of Physicians

National Lung
Cancer Audit

National Lung Cancer Audit

Information for patients and carers

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In partnership with:

Commissioned by:



What is the National Lung Cancer Audit?

The National Lung Cancer Audit began over 15 years ago and uses hospital and healthcare information to see how well people with lung cancer are being diagnosed and treated in hospitals across England, Wales, (and more recently) Jersey and Guernsey.



81%

of fit patients diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer received treatments with the hope of curing them.

What does the audit look for?

- > Characteristics of people being diagnosed with lung cancer
- > Differences across hospitals in how well cancer is being treated
- > Whether hospitals are meeting national guidelines
- > Which hospitals are performing well so learning can be shared.

How is information collected?

A number of organisations help to collect information, including over 150 hospitals, Public Health England, NHS Digital and the Cancer Network Information System Cymru (Wales).

The information may come from many different sources and is combined to provide a useful summary of lung cancer care.

The information is completely ‘anonymised’ so that patients cannot be identified. Patient privacy is an important part of the audit. The audit uses information under strict regulations.



‘Lung cancer found early is more likely to be cured.’



29%

Around one-third of patients diagnosed in 2018 were diagnosed with 'early-stage' lung cancer.

What does the audit do with the information?

A number of experts are involved with the audit, including doctors, pathologists, nurses, radiologists, oncologists and information specialists. These experts discuss what the information can tell us.

A summary of what the information tells us is published on our website each year in the form of an 'audit report' (www.nlcaudit.co.uk).

What did the last audit tell us?

- > There were **39,754 new cases** of lung cancer between 1 January and 31 December 2018 across England, Wales and the Channel Islands.
- > 'Early' detection is increasing (**nearly a third** of patients diagnosed in 2018 were diagnosed with 'early-stage' lung cancer). Lung cancer found early is more likely to be cured.
- > **The treatment of lung cancer is complex.** People may have surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and immunotherapy.
- > Most fit and healthy people with early-stage lung cancer decide to have complex treatments that might cure them (**81%**).
- > There are some differences between hospitals, for example some hospitals have more lung cancer doctors and nurses, and some hospitals carry out 'testing' more quickly.
- > Most people with lung cancer get to see a lung cancer nurse (**74%**).

What do the results mean for patients and their carers?

The audit helps hospitals to give patients the best care. The audit also shares information that can help patients make decisions about their treatments.

The audit helps to make sure that hospitals are always learning and improving.

All patients (and/or the people who care for them) should get to see a **lung cancer nurse** who will give the patient support and answer questions about medicines, how long it will take to get test results, how and when to see a doctor and what to do if there is a problem or the patient feels unwell.

Lung cancer as a national priority

The NHS wants to improve lung cancer care and know that early detection of cancer is important.

Early lung cancer screening has started in some areas of England. Hopefully this will be rolled out to all areas.

The NHS has a special team of people who are visiting hospitals across England to help hospitals get the most out of the information that is available (<https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/gifft-starts-work-on-lung-cancer-review>).

How can I get involved?

Share your experiences and get involved with patient advocacy groups:

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation
0333 323 7200
www.roycastle.org

The Patient and Carer Network
www.rcplondon.ac.uk/about-us/get-involved/patient-and-carer-network-pcn

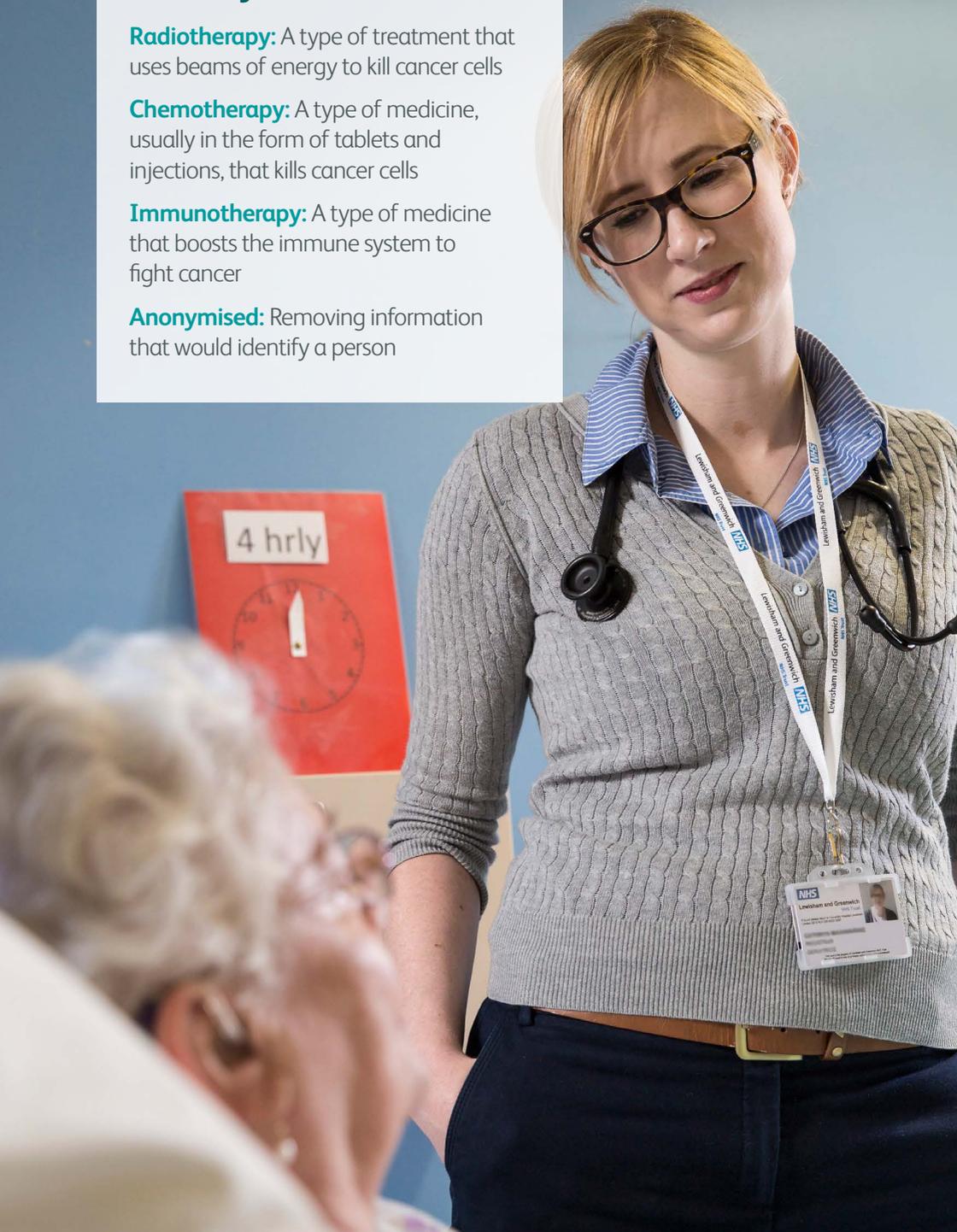
Glossary

Radiotherapy: A type of treatment that uses beams of energy to kill cancer cells

Chemotherapy: A type of medicine, usually in the form of tablets and injections, that kills cancer cells

Immunotherapy: A type of medicine that boosts the immune system to fight cancer

Anonymised: Removing information that would identify a person



This work includes patient
data collated by the National
Cancer Registration and Analysis
Service (NCRAS)

www.ndrs.nhs.uk/

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