



National Lung Cancer Audit - Glossary

ALK	Anaplastic lymphoma kinase mutations
<i>Anticancer treatment (active treatment)</i>	a term used to define treatments for lung cancer that have an effect on the tumour itself, not just on symptoms. In lung cancer patients, these are most often surgery, SACT, radiotherapy or a combination of these
<i>Biologic treatment</i>	medicines used in the treatment of cancer, often directed against a specific molecular target in the cancer
<i>Bronchoscopy</i>	a procedure for examining the airways by inserting an instrument (bronchoscope) into the trachea and lungs via the nose or mouth. This enables a small piece of lung tissue to be removed for pathological diagnosis (<i>bronchial biopsy</i>)
<i>Casemix adjustment</i>	a statistical method of comparing quality of care between organisations that takes into account important and measurable patient characteristics, for example age, sex, disease stage, social deprivation and general health
CHART	continuous hyperfractionated accelerated radiotherapy: a radiotherapy regimen that involves giving many small doses of radiation in a short period of time
<i>Comorbidity</i>	medical condition(s) or disease process(es) that are additional to the disease under investigation (in this case, lung cancer). In the NLCA, this is recorded when a comorbidity restricts the type of treatment that can be given for lung cancer
COSD	the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD) is



the national standard for reporting on cancer in the NHS in England. Trusts submit a data file to the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS) every month

CT scan

the abbreviated term for computerised tomography. These tests produce detailed images of the body using X-ray images that are enhanced by a computer

EBUS

Endobronchial ultrasound, a minimally invasive method of diagnosing lung cancer similar to a bronchoscopy but allows for tissue samples to be removed with the same instrument

EGFR

epidermal growth factor receptor, a protein on the surface of cells

FEV1

a measurement of lung capacity used by doctors to determine how healthy a patient's lungs are, and can be measured as an absolute amount or as a percentage predicted

HES data

Hospital Episode Statistics. These include information relating to the patient, as well as clinical information about the diagnosis and dates of admission and discharge

Histologic subtyping

distinguishing between different subtypes of cancer at the cell level

Immunotherapy

systemic treatments that boost the immune system to fight cancer

Lobectomy

removal of one lobe of the lung. This is the commonest type of lung cancer operation

Mesothelioma

cancer of the lining of the lung (pleura), caused by exposure to asbestos

Molecular testing

identifying specific genetic abnormalities in a cancer to guide treatment



<i>NCRAS</i>	the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS) is part of Public Health England and is responsible for all cancer registration in England
<i>Non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC)</i>	a group of types of lung cancer sharing certain characteristics, which makes up 85–90% of all lung cancers. Includes squamous carcinoma and adenocarcinoma
<i>NOS</i>	not otherwise specified. In the case of <i>NSCLC</i> histology, this implies that the pathological diagnosis has not been subclassified to a particular cell type, eg squamous carcinoma, adenocarcinoma
<i>Organisational audit</i>	a snapshot audit that looks at an organisation's staffing levels and the level of patient access to diagnostics and types of treatment
<i>Outlier</i>	a trust whose result for a certain measure lie either two (alert level) or three (alarm level) standard deviations from the mean, national, result
<i>Pathological diagnosis</i>	refers to a diagnosis of cancer based on pathological examination of a tissue (histology) or fluid (cytology), as opposed to a diagnosis based on clinical assessment or non-pathological investigation (eg CT scan)
<i>PAS data</i>	Patient Administration System. This records the patient's interaction with a hospital, including appointment bookings and waiting time
<i>Pathway</i>	refers to the process of care that a patient experiences, from the point of diagnosis through to and following treatment
<i>Performance status (PS)</i>	a systematic method of recording the ability of an individual to undertake the tasks of normal daily life compared with that of a healthy person



<i>PET-CT scan</i>	a combined scan including a positron emission tomography (PET) scan and a CT scan to produce a three-dimensional image of the body
<i>Pulmonary rehabilitation</i>	a physical exercise programme, offered to patients with chronic lung disease, designed to improve a patient's breathlessness
<i>Radiotherapy</i>	the treatment of cancer using radiation, which is most often delivered by X-ray beams (external beam radiotherapy) but can be given internally (brachytherapy)
<i>Radical treatment</i>	radical treatment rate refers to the proportion of patients who have had treatment with the intent to cure the patient of lung cancer
<i>Resectability</i>	in the consideration of surgical treatment of a lung cancer, refers to the ability of the tumour to be removed, taking into account its location and stage
<i>Systemic anticancer therapy (SACT)</i>	treatments for cancer given by mouth or injection, including chemotherapy, immunotherapy and biologic therapy
<i>Stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy (SABR)</i>	a modern radiotherapy delivery technique, designed to maximise the dose to the tumour and minimise side effects
<i>Small-cell lung cancer (SCLC)</i>	a subtype of lung cancer making up around 10–15% of all lung cancers. See also non-small-cell lung cancer
<i>Smoking cessation services</i>	services offered by the NHS to help aid individuals to quit smoking. These include advisory sessions (group or one-on-one), nicotine replacement products and medication
<i>Spotlight audit</i>	an audit that focuses on a smaller cohort of patients to understand a specific issue in treatment or care



<i>Squamous carcinoma</i>	a subtype of non-small-cell lung cancer
<i>Surgical resection</i>	an operation to remove abnormal tissues or organs
<i>TNM</i>	Tumour Node Metastasis – an international standard system for describing the extent (stage) of a cancer
<i>Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs)</i>	targeted biologic treatments for cancer
<i>Tertiary centres</i>	hospitals that specialise in diagnosis and treatment of specific conditions, often handling very complex cases. Other hospitals may refer patients to these centres for specialist treatment