

Questions and Answers

For GPs and Healthcare Workers

How will you manage the current capacity in the system for Radiologists, CT Nurses and ability to read Low Dose CT Scans?

A pathway has been produced which has increased the capacity to read and report on CT scans. Low dose CT Scans will be offered on specially designed screening lorries, which will house respiratory nurses and scanning teams. Reporting will be done by sharing data via existing hospital systems.

We are working closely with the hospital trusts involved to ensure the modelling for the programme is sustainable.

Can we build extra capacity into existing pathways for cancer screening?

There is a possibility with the mobile screening trucks that they could be used during 'down time' for other screening purposes. Until we have begun screening and know how much free time might be available we cannot confirm extra capacity.

What extra resources and training are needed to successfully deliver the project?

NHS England is providing training for radiologists in reading the low dose CT Scans. Nurses are being recruited from an existing provider of respiratory services. There is also the option to train up nurses working in primary care settings. This will offer an extension to services currently offered at GP practices.

How do we support patients who are not identified as having nodes or cancers but may have other conditions?

If there are other lung conditions identified, patients will be referred back to the GP for onward referral to either the practice respiratory nurse or to the community respiratory teams. For other conditions, they will be referred into the appropriate pathway.

What about the data considerations, how easy will it be to share data with other clinicians? Are there any Information Governance (IG) issues?

We are working with the IG teams and Digital to ensure there are systems in place that can easily communicate with each other and offer the results on a shareable platform. Information Governance of utmost importance.

As a GP what resources do you have for me to explain this process to my patients who are referred?

NHS England is providing a patient leaflet, which will be sent with the invitation letter for screening. We will be providing you with a local pathway so that you can explain to the patient how the process will work. We will also offer a public FAQs document and a short briefing for you and your staff. There is also this website you can refer patients to, with Frequently Asked Questions.

<https://www.lutonandthurrocklunghealthcheck.nhs.uk/health-professional>

How will you report back to our practice about patients who have been through the screening programme?

The radiologists will review the report and the Lung Health Check team will send you and your patient the report from the findings and any suggested referrals to be made. This will be made as easy to read as possible with a box outlining any actions needed to support the patient.

How will patients be invited? Are GPs expected to send the letters out?

No, the lung health checks teams will send the invitations out to minimise pressure on your practice. They would request the list of registered smokers / ex-smokers aged 55-74+364 days and a copy of your Practice logo that you use on headed paper and send the letter centrally.

What about other cancers, if they are detected?

Patients will go straight into a cancer pathway directly through the hospital trusts. This will be a consultant upgrade.
