

North Central London Targeted Lung Health Checks Programme

Supporting earlier diagnosis
of lung cancer



What

- Targeted Lung Health Checks (TLHC) are being offered across North-Central London to support the early detection and treatment of lung cancer.
- Those between the ages of 55 and 74 who are current or former smokers will be invited to a TLHC (independently of primary care).
- The check comprises of three stages; the first is a call to check their eligibility. This is followed up with a face to face appointment with a health professional who will assess the participant's risk of lung cancer. If deemed to be high risk, the participant will be invited for a low dose chest CT. The TLHC service will organise this, as required.
- The TLHC Programme is currently being rolled out across England. Initially it was offered in areas of England with the highest lung cancer mortality rates and is expected to be available nationally by 2025-26 (see map for the full list of locations currently live).

Why it's important

- Lung cancer often goes undetected during its early stages, due to there often being no signs or symptoms. Less than 20% of people diagnosed with lung cancer survive for 5 years or more.
- TLHCs help detect cancer at an earlier stage, when curative treatment is more possible.
- To date, 80% of lung cancers found by the TLHC programme have been at stage 1 or stage 2, compared to 30% without this kind of intervention.

How you can support the programme?

We need your help to raise awareness of the programme and educate the public on the importance of detecting lung cancer early.

TLHC uptake rates are currently low, with an average of 35% of people taking up their invitation for a lung health check.

Data collected from the programme's non-attendee survey shows the most common reason given for non-attendance is people 'felt they did not need or see the benefit of a Lung Health Check / invited by mistake'.

Ways in which GPs can support the programme include:

- Opportunistic discussion with patients who are eligible for the TLHC programme, to help them make an informed decision about attending an appointment when invited.
- Please code the smoking status of patients if not already done as a correct smoking status is key for invitations to be sent out to eligible patients.
- Direct those eligible for a check to more information on the TLHC website www.lungchecklondon.org.

Ways in which the practice manager and reception team can support the programme include:

- Putting up posters and information leaflets in your practice to help raise awareness of the programme (you can find them here).
- Playing the animation video on your waiting room screens.
- Providing the public with the relevant information if you receive calls with questions (see FAQs).

Key messages for eligible members of the public:

- Targeted Lung Health Checks help to spot any signs of lung cancer at the earlier stages, when treatment can be much simpler.
- For a lot of people, no serious problems are found – the lung health check gives peace of mind that nothing is wrong.
- For people that do have an issue with their lungs, it has been shown that a lung health check can help find it at an earlier stage than if they did not have a lung health check.
- Whether the problem is lung cancer or something else, early detection often makes treatment easier and more successful.
- When lung cancer is diagnosed early there are more options for treatment and a higher chance of survival.
- The checks start with a conversation with a healthcare professional, to find out more about your smoking history, family/medical history, lifestyle and any existing lung problems.
- There are two locations for the lung health checks: Finchley Memorial Hospital and University College Hospital (Euston Road). Please keep an eye out for your invitation. This will arrive in letter format, by post.
- The invitation will include information about who you can contact if you have further questions about the process.

Accessibility support available for participants

- Support if participants have a disability which means they're unable to attend an appointment independently.
- Translations and interpreter (including BSL).

[Find links to all additional information here.](#)