



Lung  
Cancer  
Screening



# North Central London Lung Cancer Screening Programme

Supporting earlier diagnosis  
of lung cancer



## What

- Lung Cancer Screening (LCS) is 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 smoke or used to smoke will be invited for Lung Cancer Screening (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 LCS service will organise this, as required.
- Lung Cancer Screening 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 from April 2025 onwards.

## 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.
- Lung Cancer Screening helps detect cancer at an earlier stage, when curative treatment is more possible.
- To date, 80% of lung cancers found by the Lung Cancer Screening helps 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.

Lung Cancer Screening uptake in North Central London is on average 46% (to date), which is a little below the national target of 53%.

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 Lung Cancer Screening, to help them make an informed decision about attending an appointment when invited.
- Please ensure every patient's smoking status is up to date and accurate. This is key to inviting all eligible patients.
- Direct those eligible for screening to more information on the local Lung Cancer Screening website:  
[www.lungchecklondon.org](http://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:

- Lung Cancer Screening helps 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 Lung Cancer Screening can help find it at an earlier stage than if they did not have a 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.
- Lung Cancer Screening starts 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 three locations for Lung Cancer Screening starts: Finchley Memorial Hospital, University College Hospital (Euston Road) and the Community Diagnostic Centre in The Mall Wood Green.
- Please keep an eye out for your invitation. This will be a letter sent 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 for people who have a physical or learning disability or other healthcare needs.
- Translations and interpreter (including BSL).

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