

## Lung cancer overview

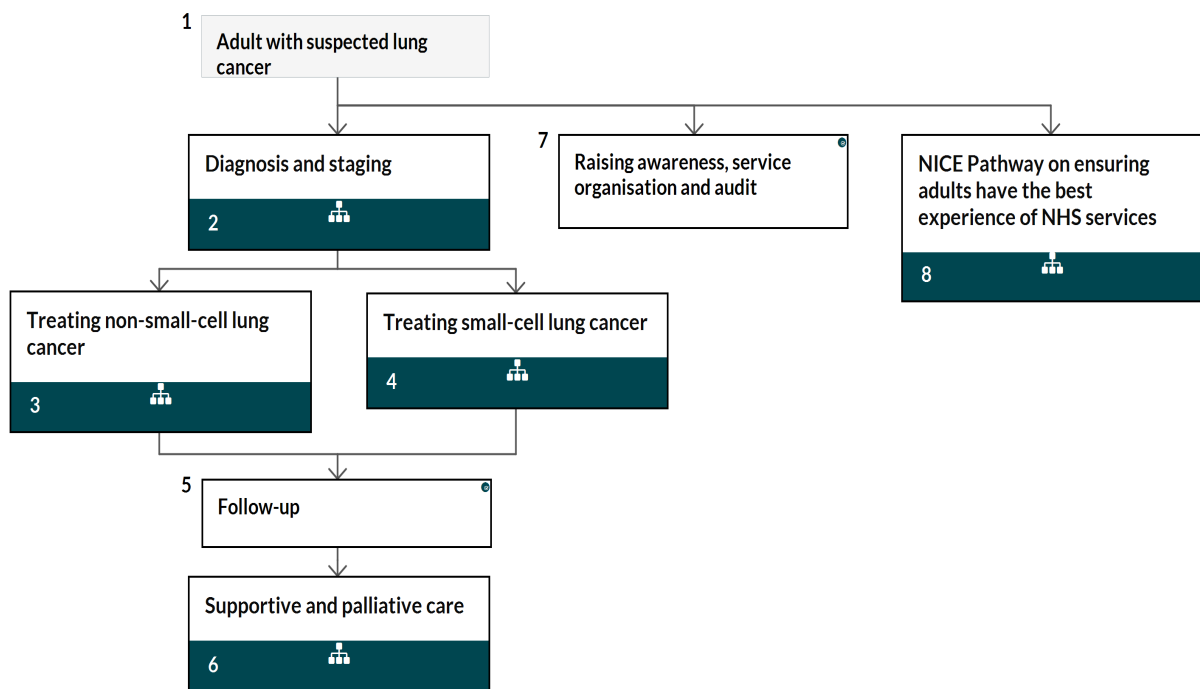
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/lung-cancer>

NICE Pathway last updated: 25 November 2020

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



## 1 Adult with suspected lung cancer

No additional information

## 2 Diagnosis and staging

[See Lung cancer / Diagnosis and staging of lung cancer](#)

## 3 Treating non-small-cell lung cancer

[See Lung cancer / Treating non-small-cell lung cancer](#)

## 4 Treating small-cell lung cancer

[See Lung cancer / Treating small-cell lung cancer](#)

## 5 Follow-up

Offer all people with lung cancer an initial specialist follow-up appointment within 6 weeks of completing treatment to discuss ongoing care. Offer regular appointments after this, rather than relying on the person requesting appointments when they experience symptoms.

Offer protocol-driven follow-up led by a lung cancer clinical nurse specialist as an option for people with a life expectancy of more than 3 months.

Ensure that people know how to contact the lung cancer clinical nurse specialist involved in their care between their scheduled hospital visits.

The opinions and experiences of people with lung cancer and their family members or carers (as appropriate) should be collected and used to improve the delivery of lung cancer services. People should receive feedback on any action taken as a result of such surveys.

### Quality standards

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

### 3. Lung cancer clinical nurse specialist

## 6 Supportive and palliative care

[See Lung cancer / Supportive and palliative care for lung cancer](#)

## 7 Raising awareness, service organisation and audit

### Raising awareness

The public needs to be better informed of the symptoms and signs that are characteristic of lung cancer, through coordinated campaigning to raise awareness.

### Service organisation

Provide fast-track lung cancer clinics (previously known as early diagnosis clinics and rapid access clinics) for investigating suspected lung cancer, because they are associated with faster diagnosis and less anxiety.

All cancer units/centres should have one or more trained lung cancer clinical nurse specialists to:

- see people before, at the time of and after diagnosis
- provide continuing support
- facilitate communication between the secondary care team (including the MDT), the person's GP, the community team and the person with lung cancer
- help people access advice and support whenever they need it.

Every cancer alliance should have a system of rapid access to PET-CT scanning for eligible patients.

Every cancer alliance should have at least 1 centre with EBUS and/or EUS to ensure timely access.

Every cancer alliance should ensure that people have rapid access to a team capable of providing interventional endobronchial treatments.

## Audit

Audit the local test performance of EBUS-TBNA and EUS-FNA.

See the NICE guideline to find out [why we made this recommendation and how it might affect practice](#).

Centres performing lung resections for lung cancer should validate their data for the [Lung Cancer Clinical Outcomes publication](#) and the [National Lung Cancer Audit](#).

People receiving radiotherapy with curative intent should be part of a national quality assurance programme.

## Quality standards

The following quality statements are relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

1. Public awareness
3. Lung cancer clinical nurse specialist

**8**

### **NICE Pathway on ensuring adults have the best experience of NHS services**

[See Patient experience in adult NHS services](#)

## Glossary

### EBUS

endobronchial ultrasound

### EUS

endoscopic ultrasound

### FNA

fine needle aspiration

### MDT

multidisciplinary team

### PET-CT

positron emission tomography–computed tomography

### TBNA

transbronchial needle aspiration

## Sources

[Lung cancer: diagnosis and management \(2019\) NICE guideline NG122](#)

## Your responsibility

### Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual

needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

## Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

---

## Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.