

**Coventry & Rugby  
Targeted Lung Health Check  
Programme  
GP Practice Information Pack**



## Introduction

The Targeted Lung Health Checks (TLHC) programme is a ground-breaking flagship programme of work in England which will help deliver on the ambition of the NHS Long Term Plan to improve early diagnosis and survival rates for those diagnosed with cancer.

The primary purpose of the programme is to deliver Lung Health Checks to the eligible populations in Coventry and Rugby with the highest risk of developing lung cancer in order to identify lung cancer at an earlier stage and reduce mortality.

In Coventry and Rugby, patients tend to present with more advanced disease than the national and regional average and that one-year survival (corrected for age, socio-economic and other factors) is significantly worse than for England overall.

There is a stark difference in outcomes for early-stage cancer vs late-stage cancer. The aim of the TLHC programme is to diagnose more cancers at stage 1 or 2. A trial of the programme in Manchester found that eight out of 10 cancers were detected at early stage, allowing curative treatment in 90% and a similar trial in London found 70% of cancers at an earlier stage.

The programme estimates that there will be 13500 eligible patients in Coventry and Rugby who attend the Lung Health Checks and around 6700 of these patients will have a low dose CT scan. It is expected that approximately 300 lung cancers will be diagnosed of which 80% will be at an early stage (stage 1 or 2).

## Key Programme Contacts

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## Who is eligible for a lung health check?

The eligibility criteria for a lung health check are those aged between 55 and 74 who have ever smoked (current or ex-smokers) and are registered with a GP practice within Coventry and Rugby CCG (pre-merger). The eligible list will be extracted from GP Practice clinical systems using MiQuest. The MiQuest scripts will be reviewed to ensure they only export the agreed dataset on the agreed cohort of patients.

## What happens during a lung health check?

Eligible participants will be sent a letter inviting them for a virtual lung health check with a TLHC nurse. If they choose to proceed, they receive a call to carry out the check at the agreed appointment time. The nurse will ask a number of questions about overall lung health, lifestyle and health history, a risk score will then be calculated. For those deemed low risk, this will be the end of the service and the GP will receive an outcome letter.

During the lung health check appointment, current smokers will be encouraged to see a smoking cessation advisor. This will be provided by Healthy Lifestyles Coventry who already provide a smoking cessation service in the area.

Patients assessed as being at an increased risk of lung cancer will be offered a low dose CT scan at a mobile unit in your area. The TLHC Nurse will discuss the benefits and risks with patients, and they will be able to ask any questions that they may have. The team will book the appointment for the CT scan at the Lung Health Check should consent be received to proceed.

TLHC CT scans will be reported by Radiologists at University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire. As a minimum, the programme will invite everyone who attends a CT scan appointment for a second lung health check two years after their initial check.

## Communication of results

Participants who have a CT scan will receive an outcome letter from the programme once results are ready. GP practices will also receive outcome letters.

The programme will be sending out the invites for subsequent follow-up scans at the appropriate time frames:

- 3 and or 12 months for those with a small nodule
- 24 months for those with no significant findings

## Where and when will CT scans take place?

CT will take place on a specially designed mobile CT scanner unit run by our partners, InHealth. This will be situated in convenient community locations to ensure that it is accessible and help to achieve a high uptake rate. CT scan appointments will be offered 7 days per week Monday to Sunday, 8am-8pm.

Invites for lung health checks will be sent in a phased way across selected PCNs and practices. This is a capped project and therefore not all practices will be invited to participate at this time. We have prioritised PCNs with the highest smoking rates and lung cancer incidence.

The TLHC programme will run for three years – the initial checks and scans will be conducted up until March 2022 and any subsequent follow-up scans will be completed by March 2024.

The programme will begin with a soft launch in June 2021 with Sowe Valley PCN. The team will contact other eligible PCNs throughout the year to offer the programme and a more detailed briefing to each PCN prior to commencement of service in that area.



### **What role do practices play in the programme?**

The programme is a great opportunity to improve lung cancer outcomes for the local population, but this is reliant on achieving a high enough uptake rate.

#### **Help us to increase the programme uptake rate:**

The programme has created a range of resources to support with promotion of the programme including pop up banners, information packs and videos which will be provided to practices to include on their websites and television screens.

Uptake could also be increased through primary care endorsement and opportunistic promotion of the programme when people attend the practice for other reasons.

For patients who do not speak English as a first language, please ask them to ring the programme on 024 75 26866. There is patient material available in a range of languages which the Booking Team can send out.

#### **Communication to Patients**

It is acknowledged that on receiving an invitation, people may phone their GP for reassurance or further queries. The programme has provided the below narrative for practices to relay back in these instances.

If practices receive enquiries about programme eligibility whilst your practice is being invited for lung health checks, please feedback the following:

*'If you have not received an invitation for a lung health check but believe you are eligible, please contact the Booking Team on 02475 268666 to discuss.'*

If practices receive enquiries about programme eligibility when your practice is not currently being invited for lung health checks, please feedback the following:

*'The programme is running in a phased approach and if eligible, you will receive an invitation if the service comes to this area'.*

If practices receive general enquiries about the programme, please direct them to contact InHealth on 02475 268666.

## **Data Sharing Agreement with InHealth**

At the request of the LMC, the programme has developed a data sharing agreement between participating practices and InHealth to enable the relevant data to be exported securely. This data sharing agreement has been approved by the Coventry and Warwickshire Information Governance Advisory Group.

A copy of the Privacy Notice below will be shared with each participating GP practice to add to their current privacy statements on their website:

The Targeted Lung Health Checks (TLHC) programme is a new and ground-breaking flagship programme of work which forms part of the NHS long term plan. This is currently a pilot programme with a capped population in Coventry and Rugby and is currently being offered to select GP practices in the area.

The programme will directly invite people aged over 55 years old but less than 75 years old that have ever smoked to a FREE lung check with one of the NHS Lung Health Check nurses. Following the lung health check those assessed as high risk will be offered a low dose CT scan.

The Practice shares your lung health related data with the Lung Health Check programme operated by University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust and InHealth (commissioned by NHS England).

This supports your invitation for a lung health check appointment (if you are eligible) and possible CT scan by the Lung Health Check team. This data may be shared with University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust to support further treatment and with other healthcare professionals involved in your care.

Further details about how this project and the NHS use your information can be found [here](#) and on [NHS England's website](#).

For further information about the TLHC programme, please see our website (<https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/lunghealthchecks/>) or alternatively, contact the TLHC team directly by emailing [UHCW.LungHealthChecksCoventry@nhs.net](mailto:UHCW.LungHealthChecksCoventry@nhs.net).

## **Payment for Practice Support**

Each practice will receive a £100 flat payment for sign off of the data sharing agreement, time taken for the data extraction (10 minutes) and reviewing the list (at practice discretion).

To claim this payment, please send an email request for a purchase order number to: [UHCW.LungHealthChecksCoventry@nhs.net](mailto:UHCW.LungHealthChecksCoventry@nhs.net) stating the Practice name, the amount of £100 and state the reason - 'for TLHC programme cohort identification'.

The programme will then send you a purchase order please put this number on your invoice that return invoice to the email address above.

We are very fortunate to have been selected to be part of the national TLHC programme and it has the potential to significantly improve lung cancer outcomes in our area. We hope that you will support the programme as outlined above and promote it to your patient population.