

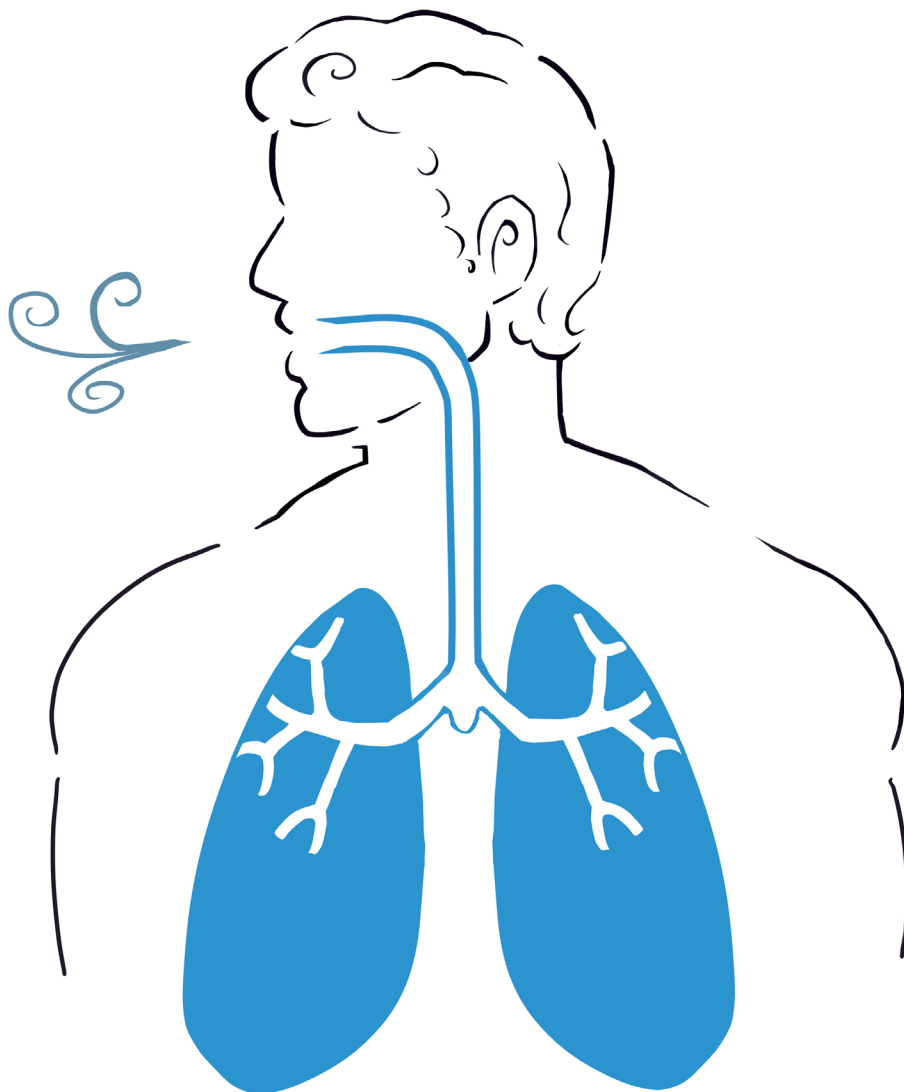


Lung  
Cancer  
Screening



# The Lung Cancer Screening Programme

What you need to know



**An easy read guide**

Screening  
saves  
lives

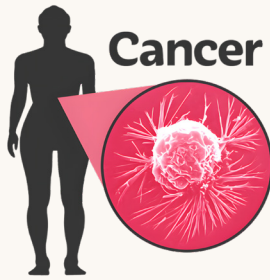
Help us  
help you

## What is in this booklet

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# What is lung cancer?

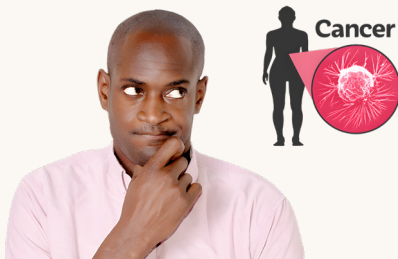


Lung cancer is one of the most common types of cancer.



Your body is made up of lots of tiny pieces called cells.

One cell might go wrong. This can make other cells go wrong. When this happens in the lungs it can turn into lung cancer.



There are usually no signs or symptoms in the early stages of lung cancer.

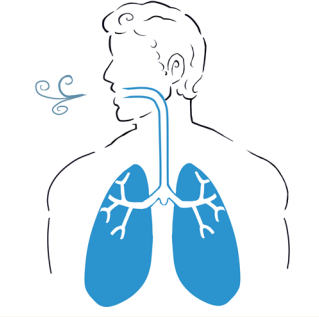
This means lots of lung cancers are found late when it is harder to treat.



Finding lung cancer early means treatment can be easier and more successful. The best way to find lung cancer early is through screening.

**Screening saves lives.**

# What is lung cancer screening?



Lung cancer screening has 2 parts.



## 1. Lung health check

You talk to a health professional on the phone or face to face.

They ask questions to see if you have a bigger risk of lung cancer.



## 2. Lung scan

If you have a bigger risk of lung cancer you are offered a lung scan.

A lung scan takes pictures of your lungs.



You can ask a friend or carer for support.

# Why are we offering lung cancer screening?

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Lung cancer screening helps find problems in your lungs early.

It can help find problems before you notice anything is wrong.



People aged from 55 to 74 who smoke or used to smoke have a bigger risk of lung cancer.

We invite these people for lung cancer screening.



Finding lung cancer early means treatment can be easier and more successful.

**Screening saves lives.**

# 1. Lung Health Check

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You will talk to a health professional on the phone or face to face.

## You talk about:

- Breathing
- How your lungs feel
- Lifestyle
- Family history
- Medical history



After the talk the health professional will tell you what will happen next.

There are 3 possible results.

## 1. No problems found



The lung health check found you have a lower risk of lung cancer.

You do not need a lung scan.

You may be invited for another lung health check in the future.

If you notice any changes or have any symptoms before your next lung health check go to your GP (*doctor*).

**Symptoms are on page 14.**

# 1. Lung Health Check

(continued)



## 2. Offer of a lung scan

Your lung health check shows you have a bigger risk of problems with your lungs.

You are offered a lung scan to check for signs of lung cancer.



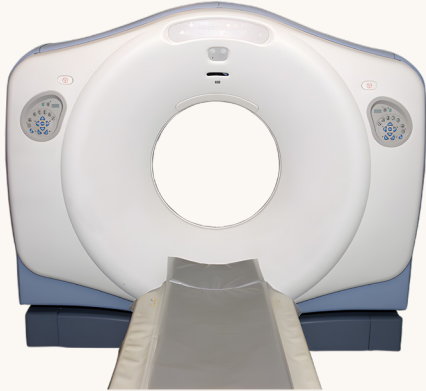
## 3. Referral to your GP or local hospital

Your lung health check shows some problems but you do not need a lung scan. The health professional will talk to your GP (*doctor*) or another health professional about your results.

We will tell your GP (*doctor*) the results of your lung health check.

## 2. Lung scan

### For people invited for a lung scan



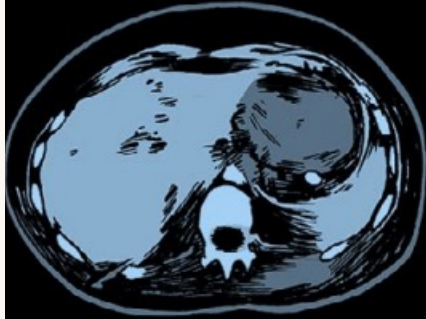
You are invited for a lung scan.

The lung scan is called a low dose CT scan. A CT scan uses a small amount of **radiation**.

The scan takes pictures of your lungs.

**Radiation** is a type of energy.

**Radiation** is invisible energy that moves through the air, kind of like light or heat, but we can't see it with our eyes.



We use **radiation** to take pictures (x-rays) of the inside of the body.

A lung scan uses a very small amount of **radiation**. Very small amounts of **radiation** do not normally cause harm.

Sometimes, if you have too much **radiation** this can cause harm. This is rare.

## 2. Lung scan (continued)

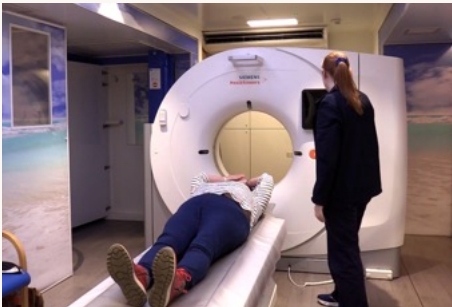
### What happens at a lung scan?



A lung scan happens at a mobile unit or in a hospital.



You are asked to remove any jewellery and clothes with metal zips.



You lie on your back and the bed moves through the scanner.

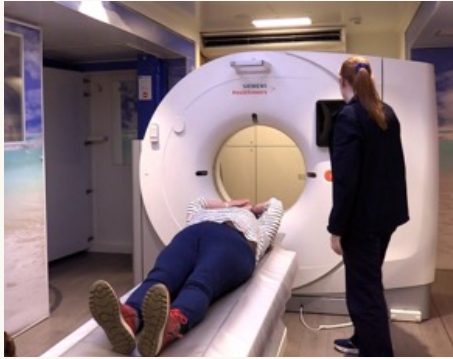


Staff called **radiographers** control the scanner from behind a screen.

You can talk to the staff during the scan.

## 2. Lung scan (continued)

### What happens at a lung scan?



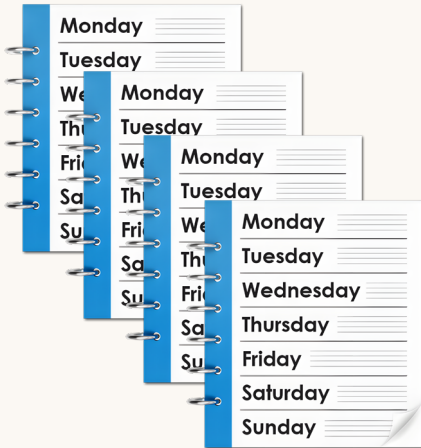
You will be asked to lie still.

You will be asked to breath in slowly and hold your breath for a couple of seconds.

Having a lung scan does not hurt.



Once the scan is finished you get off the bed and leave the unit.



You will get the results of your lung scan within 4 weeks.

There are 4 possible results.



## 1. No problems found

No signs of lung cancer were found on the lung scan.



We will invite you for another lung scan in 2 years to check everything is still OK.



If you notice any changes or have any symptoms before your next scan go to your GP (*doctor*).

**Symptoms are on page 14.**

# Lung scan results

(continued)



## 2. You need another scan

This means we saw something that we want to check again.

We will write to you and ask you to come for another scan.

This is usually in 3 or 12 months time.



## 3. Further tests needed

We saw something on the scan and want to do more tests.

We will phone you and write to the hospital.

We want to see you within 2 weeks.



## 4. Something else found

The lung scan looks for lung cancer, but sometimes we find other problems. If we find another problem we will write to you and your GP (*doctor*) so you can get more tests or treatment.



It is your choice whether to have lung cancer screening.

Having lung cancer screening means we are more likely to find problems early.



Finding lung cancer early means treatment can be easier and more successful.



Sometimes the lung scan might miss a lung cancer. This is rare. Sometimes we see something on the lung scan and want to do extra tests. This can be very worrying.



At any time during your lung cancer screening you can ask us any questions.

You can also talk to your GP (*doctor*) or a health professional at the GP surgery.



The best thing you can do to make your risk of lung cancer smaller, is to stop smoking.



If you want to stop smoking there are friendly, free, local stop smoking services.



**If you want to stop smoking you can:**

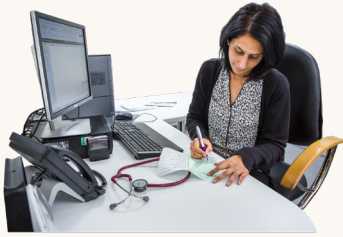
Ask at your lung cancer screening appointment.

Speak to your doctor.

Contact NHS Smokefree 0300 123 1044

Or visit [www.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree)





If you have any of these symptoms go to the GP (*doctor*).



A cough that does not stop

*or*

Coughing up blood.



Being short of breath

*or*

An ache or pain when you breathe or cough.



Being very tired or losing weight without trying.



Not wanting to eat anything.

# For more information about lung cancer, lung cancer screening and advice on smoking

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## NHS Lung Cancer Information

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/lung-cancer](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lung-cancer)



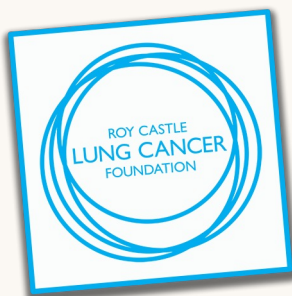
## NHS Smokefree

[www.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree)



## Cancer Research UK

[www.cruk.org/lunghealthchecks](http://www.cruk.org/lunghealthchecks)  
[www.cruk.org/about-cancer/lung-cancer](http://www.cruk.org/about-cancer/lung-cancer)  
[www.cruk.org/smoking](http://www.cruk.org/smoking)



## Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

[www.roycastle.org/information](http://www.roycastle.org/information)  
[www.roycastle.org/help-and-support](http://www.roycastle.org/help-and-support)

Made with support from the  
**North East and North Cumbria Learning  
Disability and Autism Network**

