



# Northern Cancer Alliance (NCA) Lung Pathway Board Project

This project has been developed in collaboration between MSD and the Northern Cancer Alliance across North East and North Cumbria

January 2020 – March 2021

## OVERVIEW

The NCA wanted to establish a lung cancer pathway board. The aim was to improve lung cancer care for patients in the North East and North Cumbria, delivering an integrated care pathway from presentation and diagnoses to personalised and palliative care for lung cancer patients thus reducing inequalities and delivering improved outcomes.

## Objectives

To establish a lung cancer pathway board to ensure that every lung cancer patient has access to an equitable, effective and responsive service compliant with national and local standards in NCA.

## Challenges

- The north east region has the highest rate of lung cancer registration in England<sup>1</sup>. The NCA population is about 5.9% of the England population but has 6.5% of all malignancies and 8.2% of total lung cancer
- Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in this region<sup>2</sup>
- In England, 21% of cancer deaths are lung. In NCA, lung cancer deaths equate to 24.8%<sup>3</sup>. So, there was a need to improve.

## Solution

MSD provided project management to support the NCA in establishing a lung cancer pathway board. Focusing on:

- Pathway mapping and GAP analysis to Implement the National Optimal Lung Cancer pathway in All 8 Foundation Trusts (FTs)
- Supporting the implementation of the 28 day Faster diagnosis Standard in all 8 FTs
- Streamlining MDT meetings across the region
- Disseminating findings and supporting adoption of North East Lung case findings



MSD was ‘reliable, knowledgeable and managed a complex set of relationships adroitly’

- LC Lead Respiratory Consultant

MSD was ‘very supportive in terms of liaising between our hospital and the alliance as well as more practical issues like supplying us with helpful data (and letting us know what was happening in similar circumstances around the region / the country),

- Cancer Services Manager FT ”

Provider	9 NHS trusts with lung cancer teams
Total patient population	3 million
Cancer patients impacted	1,926

## Impact

- 10-day reduction in Lung Cancer Pathway across 8 FTs in NCA
- New Biomarker testing pathway led to 10-day reduction in testing times
- NCA achieved 28 Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS) target in shadow form 2020/21

10-day reduction across 8 FT	10-day testing time reduction
28 FDS achievement	
2022 HSJ Awards – highly commended	2021 AHSN Bright Ideas Awards

Click or scan the QR code to view other MSD initiatives with the NHS



If you would like further information or would like to meet your MSD representative please email [msdukhealthcare@msd.com](mailto:msdukhealthcare@msd.com)

### References:

- 1 Office for health improvement and disparities - Lung Cancer. Available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/indicator-list/view/pzVoNJYsUO> [Accessed: October 2023]
- 2 Northern Cancer Alliance Lung Cancer Clinical Guidelines: <https://www.northerncanceralliance.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Lung-Clinical-Guidelines-v13.2-2.pdf> [Accessed: October 2023]
- 3 Navani, N. et al. (2022) ‘Lung cancer in the United Kingdom’, Journal of Thoracic Oncology, 17(2), pp. 186–193. doi:10.1016/j.jtho.2021.11.002.