

Lung Cancer Screening FAQs

Why have I been contacted for Lung Cancer Screening (LCS)?

You have been sent a letter because your GP practice has identified from your patient details that:

- You are aged 55 to under-75
- You live in South Yorkshire or Bassetlaw
- You are a current or former smoker, or no smoking status has been recorded on your patient details

The risk of developing lung cancer increases as you get older and if you smoke or used to smoke.

Why have I *not* been contacted?

If you meet the criteria listed above and still haven't received a letter, please tell your GP practice as there may be information missing from your patient details.

When will I be contacted and how?

You will initially receive an invitation letter in the post, with a reminder telephone call and text message if we have those details for you. LCS is saving lives across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, and we don't want you to miss out on your screening.

What is Lung Cancer Screening?

LCS can help find problems early; often before you notice anything is wrong, and at a stage when treatment could be simpler and more successful. It is identifying poor lung health and offering early diagnosis with better survival rates for lung cancer and other lung conditions by providing quick, easily accessible screening for those deemed to be at a higher risk. We want as many people as possible to attend their LCS.

There are two parts to LCS, **but not everyone will need to have both parts.**

Part 1: Lung Health Check

A Lung Health Check is an MOT of your lungs to check they are working as they should be. Your lungs never stop doing their job for every minute of your life, and as you get older it's worth having them checked out.

A phone call will confirm your age and smoking status to make sure we are screening the right people. If you meet the criteria, you should be able to proceed with LCS and make a Lung Health Check appointment with a respiratory nurse.

This appointment will last approximately 30 minutes. Please let the team know on your confirmation call if you'll need extra time or any other reasonable adjustments for your Lung Health Check. The respiratory nurse will ask you questions about your breathing, overall lung health, lifestyle, family medical history, and your medical history. Please ask the nurse any questions you may have as we want you to feel comfortable throughout the LCS process.

The Lung Health Check has three possible outcomes:

- (i) **Being referred for a low-dose CT scan of your chest:** If you are at a higher risk of developing lung cancer now or in the future, you will be offered a chest scan.
- (ii) **No problems are found:** The nurse may find nothing further to look into and not refer you for a chest scan. If this is the case, the nurse will let you know before they end the call. Please remember the importance of keeping your lungs healthy and if you have any concerns at all, please visit your GP.
- (iii) **Referral to your GP:** If problems with your breathing or lungs are found but you do not require a scan, the nurse may transfer you back to your GP or another specialist.

In all three cases we will write to your GP to let them know.

Part 2: The Chest CT Scan

You may be invited to have a scan of your chest. This is a special CT (Computed Tomography) scan that uses a very low dose of radiation and a computer to take a detailed picture of your chest.

What happens during your scan?

- (i) You do not need to get undressed but do need to remove your coat, and please make sure to wear a non-underwired bra. During the scan, you will usually lie flat on your back on a bed that moves slowly through the CT scanner. The scanner is shaped like a ring and rotates around a small section of your body as you pass through it.

- (ii) Radiographers control the scanner from behind a screen in the CT room. You will be able to see and speak to them during the scan.
- (iii) When a scan is taken, you will need **to lie still and follow simple breathing instructions for 10 seconds**. This makes sure the pictures are not blurred.
- (iv) **The scan is painless**, and you will be able to eat, drink, and drive as normal before and after your scan.

Does the mobile scanning unit have wheelchair access?

Yes, there is wheelchair access via a lift.

Can I bring someone along with me to the appointment?

You can bring someone with you, but they will have to wait behind the screen while you're having your scan. Please let us know if you have any additional needs at the time of booking the CT scan and we will do our best to accommodate you.

What happens after Lung Cancer Screening?

Should anything be identified either during the discussion with a nurse or during the CT scan, you will be contacted by telephone or letter with the next steps depending upon what these are. If you have any worries about this, you can speak to the nursing professionals in the booking team on 0330 2368484.

How can I tell the difference between symptoms of lung disease and other conditions like the flu, chest infections, or Covid-19?

We understand that some conditions have similar symptoms, but **it is important to look out for anything that is unusual for you**. If you notice any of the following, please contact your GP as soon as possible:

- Unexplained persistent cough
- Unexplained persistent breathlessness
- Wheezing
- Fatigue lasting four or more weeks
- Coughing up blood
- Persistent or recurrent chest infection
- Unexplained weight loss
- Appetite loss

Is this a new service?

LCS launched in Doncaster in March 2021, then called Targeted Lung Health Checks. It launched in Bassetlaw in August 2022, Rotherham in October 2022, Barnsley in March 2023, and Sheffield in October 2024. It is a lifesaving screening programme, because catching lung cancer earlier gives people more treatment options, including being cured. LCS will be a national screening programme from 2029.

I smoke and I'm just outside the age range – why can't I have LCS?

As with most screening programmes for people who are asymptomatic (displaying no symptoms), the resources are targeted at people who have the greatest risk of developing lung problems, including lung cancer. **The people most at risk of developing lung problems are aged between 55 and 74 who smoke or used to smoke.**

What are the benefits of having LCS?

- We may be able to identify any concerns with your lungs much more quickly than if you hadn't attended, meaning you will have more treatment options
- It is local and easy to get to – the Lung Health Check takes place over the telephone and, if you are offered a scan, this will take place in a community setting close to your home
- You can talk through any questions with healthcare professionals
- There is advice and assistance on how to quit smoking available, with no judgement
- LCS aims to detect lung disease earlier – including lung cancer – so people can be treated more effectively
- More than 50,000 people like you in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw have had their LCS, and we've found more than 600 cancers – 75% of people were able to have their cancer treated and even cured
- Why not visit www.lungcancerscreeningsyb.co.uk and hear about two local people sharing their experiences of going through the programme?
- While you're on our website, you can read more about LCS. There is information in different languages and an Easy Read guide