

NICE criteria for investigation and referral for suspected lung cancer⁸

Direct referral using a suspected cancer pathway referral for an appointment within two weeks:

- Chest X-ray findings that suggest lung cancer or
- Aged 40 and over with unexplained haemoptysis

Offer an urgent chest X-ray (to be performed within two weeks) to assess for lung cancer in people aged 40 and over if they have two or more of the following unexplained symptoms, or if they have ever smoked and have one or more of the following unexplained symptoms:

- Cough
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite

Consider an urgent chest X-ray (to be performed within two weeks) to assess for lung cancer in people aged 40 and over with any of the following:

- Persistent or recurrent chest infection
- Finger clubbing
- Supraclavicular lymphadenopathy or persistent cervical lymphadenopathy
- Chest signs consistent with lung cancer
- Thrombocytosis

Safety netting recommendations:

- Ensure results of investigations are reviewed and acted upon
- Be aware of the possibility of false-negative chest X-rays
- Consider review of people at increased risk of cancer over an agreed timeframe or a patient-initiated review if there are persistent, worsening or new symptoms