

NHS North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group - The Provision of Radiology and Respiratory support for the North Kirklees Targeted Lung Health Check Project

Full Description

In February 2019, a National Targeted Lung Health Check Programme was announced covering 10 CCGs across the country. The programme areas were chosen based on high levels of deprivation, smoking levels and cancer mortality. North Kirklees CCG was chosen to be part of the national programme, and has the ambition to offer Lung Health Checks to all eligible patients in the whole CCG population by March 2022.

The aim of the programme is to target patients aged 55 to 75 in the population who are smokers or have ever smoked. Patients in this cohort will be invited to a Lung Health Check.

As part of the Lung Health Check, patients will have their lung cancer risk assessed using two recognised risk assessment tools. Patients who reach the risk threshold for either test will be referred from the Lung Health Check (LHC) service to the Radiology service provider for a Low Dose CT in their local area. Patients with significant findings from their scan will be managed on agreed pathways and referred to local NHS organisations as appropriate. Patients with indeterminate scan results will be offered follow up at intervals of 3 months, 12 months and 24 months where appropriate. The management of these patients should be protocolised and in line with the National Protocol, BTS 2015 pulmonary nodule guidelines and NICE guidelines for the management of lung cancer. The programme will also offer 24 month follow ups for all patients deemed to be high risk who had a negative initial baseline scan.

Over the course of the project, if the whole eligible population of North Kirklees is able to access a Lung Health Check there will be a maximum of approximately 10000 Low Dose CT scans required over the 3 year duration of the project. As a minimum there will be a requirement for 220 scans for every 4 weeks when the service is running at capacity.

For the North Kirklees project, the initial invitation to the service and Lung Health Checks will be provided by Curo Healthcare (GP Federation) under an existing contract. Curo Healthcare will carry out referral to the provider of this contract for Low Dose CT.

The purpose of this contract is to identify a provider for the remaining radiology and respiratory elements of the Project, from the point of this referral to Low Dose CT through image acquisition and LDCT reporting, LHC Review/ MDT meeting and onward referral of patients onto treatment pathways as appropriate.

The contract will include the tracking and management of lung nodule patients with an indeterminate baseline scan, who require follow up scans. For patients who have a negative initial baseline scan the contract will also include follow up scans at 24 months from the date of their initial scan.

The service provider will be required to work with the commissioners and wider health care system, including local Acute Trusts and Primary Care providers, to ensure seamless and timely onward referral of patients.

Evidence has shown that take up for screening programmes is improved where the service is offered close to the patient, therefore as part of the contract the provider will be required to procure Mobile Low Dose CT capacity to enable monthly scanning to take place within the North Kirklees geographic area. Some potential sites for the mobile scanner have already been identified.

Requirements

The service will:

- Deliver the Radiology and Respiratory elements of the North Kirklees Lung Health Check project from the point of referral from the Lung Health Check provider in Primary Care (Curo Healthcare), through image acquisition and reporting, to onward referral of the patient or discharge from the service.
- Work in partnership with the provider of the Lung Health Check to implement an electronic referral process into the service and electronic reporting back to primary care
- Procure and manage the Mobile CT capacity for the project
- Utilise appropriate radiology software including
 - Computer-aided detection
 - Nodule volumetry software that automatically detects nodules and measures volume
 - Automated retrieval and comparison with any previous imaging.
- Provide timely reporting of CT scans within 3 weeks of acquisition to enable feedback to the patient and their GP within a four week timeframe
- Deliver regular monthly LHC Review/ MDT meeting, including the pulmonary nodule review where appropriate
- Work in partnership with local NHS providers to ensure seamless and rapid transfer of patients where required
- Track and recall patients for follow up scans for indeterminate results in line with the national Lung Health Check Protocol, BTS 2015 pulmonary nodule guidelines and NICE guidelines for the management of lung cancer
- Track and recall patients with negative baseline scan for 24 months follow up
- Provide the commissioner with quarterly audit reports on progress
- Provide monthly data in line with the requirements of the National Evaluation template for the programme

The Provider(s) will ensure:

- The service is delivered in line with the standards and requirements of the National Programme which includes: National Targeted Lung Health Check Protocol, Quality Assurance Standards and associated addendum (see

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/targeted-screening-for-lung-cancer/>).
This invitation should be considered in the context of these guidance documents.

- Appropriate Clinical oversight is provided for the service as defined in line with the requirements of the national Targeted Lung Health Check Protocol, including the identification of a Responsible Clinician and Responsible Radiologist.
- Safe and secure processes are in place with the local GP practices, Mobile CT provider and wider health community to allow safe and secure electronic transfer of information and images between the relevant providers in the pathway.
- All staff working within the service meet the required qualifications, training and experience as laid out in the National Quality Assurance Standards
- The Low Dose CT mobile provider delivers a safe and effective service which meets the requirements of the national quality standards