**Lung Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialists**

Lung Cancer is the third most common cancer after breast and prostate. However, it is the biggest killer and it kills more patients each year than breast, prostate and pancreatic cancer combined.

Lung cancer average survival rates;

* 37% at one year
* 10% at five years or more
* 5% at ten years or more

The lung cancer clinical nurse specialist team consists of; one band 7 CNS, one Band 6 CNS and one Band 4 Nursing Associate. The team can be contacted on 01246 51(3654) or bleep 184. The team are available from 09:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday.

Their ole is to ensure that patients and their loved ones are supported from diagnosis (sometimes before if the cancer is highly suspected) through treatment (chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery) to the end of life.

Their role is mainly outpatient based and clinics are based within the NGS Macmillan Unit, there may also be visits to inpatient areas when patients are admitted. The team are the key workers for this group of patients and due to the nature of the disease and prognosis, patients often need frequent interventions. All patients with a diagnosis of lung cancer and mesothelioma have a key worker.

Lung cancer is a cancer that has started in the lung and may be caught early and removed or may have spread elsewhere in the body. There are usually no signs or symptoms in the early stages of lung cancer, but many people with the condition eventually develop symptoms including;

* A persistent cough
* Coughing up blood
* Persistent breathlessness
* Unexplained tiredness and weight loss
* An ache or pain when breathing or coughing

**Types of lung cancer**

Cancer that begins in the lungs is called primary lung cancer. Cancer that spreads to the lungs from another place in the body is known as secondary lung cancer. This page is about primary lung cancer.

There are two main types of primary lung cancer. These are classified by the type of cells in which the cancer starts. They are;

* Non small-cell lung cancer – the most common type, accounting for more than 80% of cases, can be either squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma or large – cell carcinoma
* Small-cell lung cancer – a less common type that usually spreads faster than non small-cell lung cancer.

The type of lung cancer that you have determines which treatments are recommended.

**Mesothelioma** is a type of cancer that develops in the lining that covers the outer surface of some of the body’s organs. It’s usually linked to asbestos exposure.

Mesothelioma mainly affects the lining of the lungs (pleural mesothelioma), although it can also affect the lining of the stomach (peritoneal mesothelioma), heart or testicles. Most cases are diagnosed in people aged 60-80 and men are affected more commonly than women.

Unfortunately it is rarely possible to cure mesothelioma, Although treatment can help control the symptoms.