

## Lung Cancer Nurse



**Lung cancer is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common cancer after breast and prostate.**

**BUT;**

**Is the biggest killer as it kills more patients each year than breast, prostate and pancreatic combined.**

**Average survival rates;**

**37% at one year**

**10% five years or more**

**5% ten years or more**

Jill Allsop is the Lung Cancer Nurse at Chesterfield Royal Hospital and she can be contacted on 01246 513654 or bleep 184. She works Monday to Friday 9 -5 pm.

Her role is to ensure patients and their loved ones are supported from diagnosis (sometimes before if highly suspected) through treatment (chemotherapy, radiotherapy or surgery) to end of life.

The 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. Jill is the key worker for this group of patients; due to the nature of disease and prognosis patients often have high levels of need and intervention. 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 to elsewhere in the body. Lung cancer is one of the most common and serious types of cancer. Around 44,500 people are diagnosed with the condition every year in the UK.

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 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 tummy (peritoneal mesothelioma), heart or testicles. More than 2,600 people are diagnosed with the condition each year in the UK. Most cases are diagnosed in people aged 60-80 and men are affected more commonly than women.

Unfortunately it's rarely possible to cure mesothelioma, although treatment can help control the symptoms.