

## **South West (SW) Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer**

### **May 2018 Project Update Bulletin**

This is a new bulletin for the lung pathway transformation stakeholder group.

#### **Project Scope**

Both South West Alliances have committed to introducing the diagnostic phase of the National Optimal Lung Cancer Pathway (NOLCP). All patients will follow this diagnostic pathway order being the start of the NOLCP:

GP → chest X-ray → CT → Outpatient appointment

This means a straight to CT from X-ray pathway will be available. Once this is in the right order providers are expected to work towards the NOLCP turnaround times. The NOLCP offers a more streamlined pathway from referral to diagnosis and then treatment without compromising patient experience and ensures a more efficient and effective use of valuable resources.

In addition we are introducing the South West (SW) CXR Reporting Tool to support the implementation of the straight to CT element of the NOLCP, unless a local alternative process has been agreed. We expect the reporting tool to increase consistency of reporting across the South West in the way that inter-operating variability has decreased in reporting of mammograms since the introduction of coded reports. Use of the tool for this purpose has been approved by the SW Alliances' Site Specific Groups (Lung).

#### **Project Update**

Following engagement with SWAG and Peninsula Cancer Alliance key stakeholders including the Lung Site specific Groups all SW STP's have committed to the project, submitted implementation plans and received cancer transformation funds to enable the new pathway.

Oversight of the project is via a steering group consisting of all key stakeholders chaired by the clinical lead Dr Amelia Randle. Clinical expertise is provided via a clinical advisory forum within each Alliance.

For assurance purposes future release of 18/19 funds is dependent on submission of monthly highlight and data reports evidencing progress with implementation.

#### **Key highlights for April from the project plan**

- Guidance for clinical protocol development proposed by SWAG clinical advisory forum approved by Steering group and to be shared for wider consultation
- Patient information leaflet ratified by Steering Group following extensive stakeholder feedback process
- Information for GPs completed
- User representation at Steering group
- Metrics finalised and data reporting schedule approved by Steering group
- Generic process map completed to aid local resolution of identified implementation risks in plans and inform primary care engagement planning

- Engagement of provider implementation teams with SW CA Project Manager
- Decision to recommend rather than require use of SW Chest X-ray reporting tool

## Next steps

### Key Tasks for May

- Communication pack approved for publication to be circulated to all
- Scoping of STP engagement plans and identify support needs
- Project Manager will continue working with providers and commissioners to define local pathways, ensuring scope of implementation plans meets requirements of bid
- Facilitate LMC agreement with local bespoke pathways
- Review 1<sup>st</sup> monthly highlight and data reports on submission and produce compliance with deliverables report.
- Complete risk assessment of provider data reporting capability.
- PPE Questionnaire development and agree plan.

SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer Steering Group will review compliance with deliverables beginning with April 2018 highlight and data reports at the next meeting to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.

SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer communication pack contains:

**SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer information for GPs:** This is high level information for GPs. It is anticipated that a local version will be developed reflecting the bespoke implementation and will be released as part of the education programme for introduction of the CXR-CT pathway.

**SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer Patient information leaflet guidance;** intended to highlight the required elements of local leaflets with examples of commentary for creation of local versions reflecting bespoke implementation of the SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer locally. This has been agreed by the SW Cancer Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer steering group for dissemination to all stakeholders.

**SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer Generic Process Map and key;** for information and assistance in building a detailed local process map of the SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer implementation. The local process map is intended to be shared with CCG, STP and LMC (for review) as part of locally designed engagement programmes.

**SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer Provider Data report:** To be submitted by providers before the last Friday of each month. This has been agreed by the SW Cancer Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer steering group for



**Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and  
Gloucestershire Cancer Alliance**



**Peninsula Cancer Alliance**

dissemination to all stakeholders. A dashboard will be developed and performance discussed at SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer quarterly steering group.

**CTF Monthly Highlight Report:** Providers will complete information on progress against milestones, metrics, spend and any risks and issues associated with SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer transformation. Specifically providers are being asked for 'go live' dates.

For any further information on the project, please contact: Nicola Gowen (Project Manager for SW Alliances' Rapid Diagnostic Pathway for Lung Cancer across SWAG and Peninsula): [nicolagowen@nhs.net](mailto:nicolagowen@nhs.net)

### **National context**

NHS England has published new national guidance on a rapid lung cancer diagnostic pathway: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/implementing-timed-lung-cancer-diagnostic-pathway.pdf>

The pathway is designed to meet the Cancer Taskforce target of a definitive diagnosis by 28 days from referral (achieving faster diagnosis) but will also encourage earlier diagnosis and robust and uniform assessment of patients.

The lung cancer timed pathway draw on the National Optimal Lung Cancer Pathway (NOLCP), which was produced by the NHS England Clinical Expert Group for Lung Cancer in August 2017 and sets out how to deliver the pathway from referral to diagnosis.

In NHS England and NHS Improvement 'refreshing plans' document 2018/19 deliverables include implementation of the nationally agreed rapid assessment and diagnostic pathways for lung, prostate and colorectal cancers, ensuring that patients get timely access to the latest diagnosis and treatment.