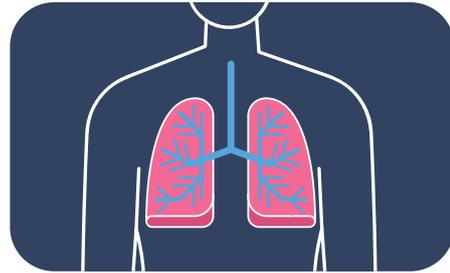


# Lung Cancer



## Symptoms

- New cough that doesn't resolve within 3 weeks
- Changes in a pre-existing cough- one that is worse, more frequent or more painful
- Recurrent chest infections or infections which don't resolve following treatment
- Coughing up blood in the sputum lasting 2 weeks or more
- Unexplained weight loss - more than 5% of the patient's normal weight within 3 months
- Increasing shortness of breath lasting 2 weeks or more
- Persistent fatigue lasting 3 weeks or more
- Loss of appetite lasting 3 weeks or more
- A pain or ache in chest or shoulders lasting 3 weeks or more
- Hoarse voice lasting for 3 weeks or more
- Swollen fingers – fingers becoming larger or more curved at the tips



## Ask

- Does the patient smoke? Or have they smoked in the past? Or exposed to second hand smoke ? - Please note that non-smokers are still at risk of lung cancer
- Has the patient been exposed to asbestos?
- Is the cough new or old? How long have they had it? Is it painful?
- Any episodes of coughing up blood in the sputum?
- Have they lost weight unintentionally? And if so, how much weight have they lost?
- Have they had recent chest infections? If so, how many?
- Have they noticed that they are more short of breath doing activities that they did previously?
- Do they have any ache or pain in the chest/shoulders? If so, how long has this been present?
- Has their voice changed ? and if so, over what period of time ?
- Have you they noticed changes in appearances of their fingers?

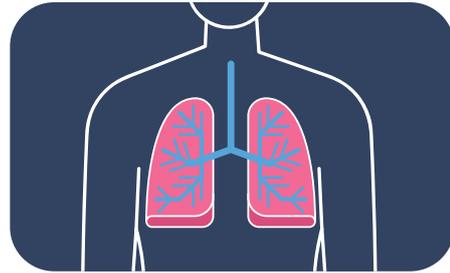


## Pharmacy Products

- Patients may purchase cough medications to suppress/alleviate a persistent cough
- Patients with chest/shoulder pain may purchase analgesic medications

The full Let's Communicate Cancer course is available by clicking [here](#)  
Version 1: The information provided is in line with current guidance on March 2023

# Lung Cancer



## Follow up/Referral

Patients with the following should be encouraged to make an urgent appointment with their GP

**Patients who have never smoked**

- Aged over 40 with two or more of the symptoms listed above

**Patients who currently smoke or who have smoked previously**

- Aged over 40 with one or more of the symptoms listed above

All patients, irrespective of smoking status, with the following should be encouraged to make a non-urgent appointment with their GP

- Aged under 40 with current/persistent chest infections
- Unexplained weight loss - more than 5% of the patient's normal weight within 3 months

Please be aware that these symptoms may, or may not, be caused by cancer but should be investigated to help diagnose patients with other conditions which also require treatment.

Please advise patients who do not meet the criteria for urgent, or non-urgent review by a GP to come back to a pharmacy for further advice if the symptoms do not resolve within a further 7 days.

Please refer to the Lets Communicate Cancer e-learning programme for further training resources for pharmacy staff regarding cancer, its management and the role of pharmacy staff.

The full Let's Communicate Cancer course is available by clicking [here](#)  
Version 1: The information provided is in line with current guidance on March 2023