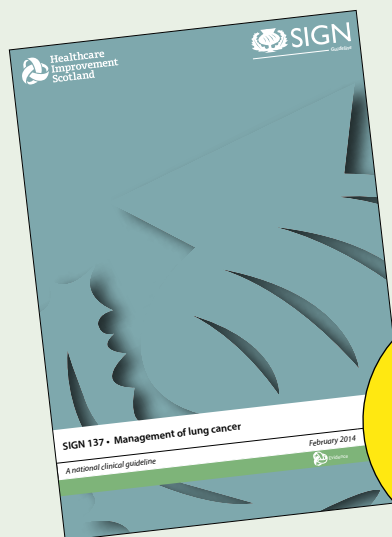


SIGN 137

Management of lung cancer *A national clinical guideline*



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Background and need for a guideline

Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in Scotland. There are approximately 4,800 new cases and 4,000 deaths each year. Eighty nine per cent of cases occur in patients over 60 years. Incidence is higher, and survival is poorer, in people of lower socioeconomic status. The greatest risk factor for lung cancer is exposure to tobacco smoke, with about 90% of patients being smokers or ex-smokers.

This guideline updates SIGN 80 to reflect the most recent evidence on diagnostic and staging investigations, surgery, radiotherapy and systemic anti-cancer therapy.

Remit

The guideline covers all aspects of the management of patients with small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), and provides information for discussion with patients and carers.

Potential users

The guideline is intended for use by chest physicians, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, medical and clinical oncologists, pharmacists, public health practitioners, nurses, general practitioners, palliative care teams and allied health professionals.

The challenge for healthcare professionals is to....

- encourage patients to stop smoking as soon as the diagnosis of lung cancer is suspected. Surgery should not be postponed, however, to allow time for patients to stop smoking.
- ensure patients receive appropriate diagnostic and staging investigations.
- keep abreast of new evidence for molecular testing of predictive biomarkers to select patients for targeted therapy.
- ensure patients have their treatment planned and managed by a multidisciplinary team, and have access to the specialist palliative care team.

Implementing this guideline

The implementation strategy for this guideline encompasses:

- identification of the key recommendations that should be prioritised for implementation
- description of recommendations likely to have significant resource implications
- key points for audit
- guideline and supporting materials available to download from the SIGN website
- dissemination of a quick reference guide to all appropriate healthcare professionals
- electronic dissemination of the full guideline to all NHS Boards
- iPhone, iPad and Android apps.