

# WoSCAN Lung Cancer Webinar

Summary report 28/04/2021

Together we will beat cancer



# The role of the Cancer Research UK Clinical Engagement Team in Scotland

The Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Clinical Engagement Team (formerly Facilitator Programme) in Scotland is currently working in partnership with the Scottish Government to support the [Recovery and Redesign Cancer Services Action Plan](#) and specifically the lung cancer pathway across Scotland.

Early diagnosis of lung cancer was a challenge before COVID-19, while statistics have demonstrated a significant drop in lung cancers being diagnosed compared to before the pandemic; **over 25% fewer cases in Scotland** ([Public Health Scotland: COVID-19 wider impacts on the health care system dashboard](#)).

We know that during the pandemic, less patients presented to primary care and given the overlap of symptoms between COVID-19 and lung cancer, (cough, breathlessness and fatigue), the Scottish Attitudinal Tracking Survey from January 2021 confirmed the confusion. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-january-update/>. Over and above, reduced capacity and availability of diagnostic services and treatment due to COVID-19 restrictions is likely to have contributed to the reduction in lung cancer diagnosis.

It is therefore an ongoing priority to promote the latest clinical guidance in managing patients with a suspicion of lung cancer to support earlier diagnosis efforts and ensure those at higher risk are expedited onto the right pathway.

Our education programme is being delivered collaboratively across all regions, working with local lead GPs and respiratory clinicians across Scotland with additional support from CRUK being offered at cluster level where there is an interest in developing quality improvement lung cancer focused projects .

The West of Scotland Cancer Network (WoSCAN) Lung Cancer Webinar was the first regional event to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 with a similar event upcoming within the South East Scotland Cancer Network (SCAN).

The webinar was designed to be inclusive and interactive. As well as hearing from Lisa Cohen, Regional Relationship Manager Cancer Research UK, Dr Douglas Rigg, Clinical Lead West of Scotland Primary Care Cancer Network and Lead GP for Cancer NHS GG&C, we also heard from Amanda Rae from Community Pharmacy Scotland and Dr Joris Van der Horst, Clinical Lead West of Scotland Lung Cancer MCN, Consultant Respiratory Physician.

At the end of the webinar there was a panel discussion when all attendees were given the opportunity to participate in a live Q&A which proved very productive.

# Registration

170 people registered for the webinar; breakdown of identified job titles can be seen below in table 1.

Table 1.

JOB TITLE	No.
GP	99
Pharmacist	12
Practice Nurse	4
Advanced Nurse Practitioner	20
Practice Manager	0
GP Trainee	19
GP Locum	3
Other*	16

\*other job titles submitted included: Health Improvement Senior (x2), Scottish Government Policy (x1), Physician Associate (x2), Biomedical scientist (x1), CTAC Staff Nurse (x1), Respiratory Specialist Nurse/MCN Lead Clinician (x1), CRUK Facilitator (x5)

At time of registration, we asked the following questions:

- 1) Please rate your knowledge and confidence out of 5, in referring patients on the urgent suspected lung cancer pathway

Average Rating was 3.28 out of 5

- 2) In your experience, what is the biggest challenge to having patients investigated on the lung cancer pathway?

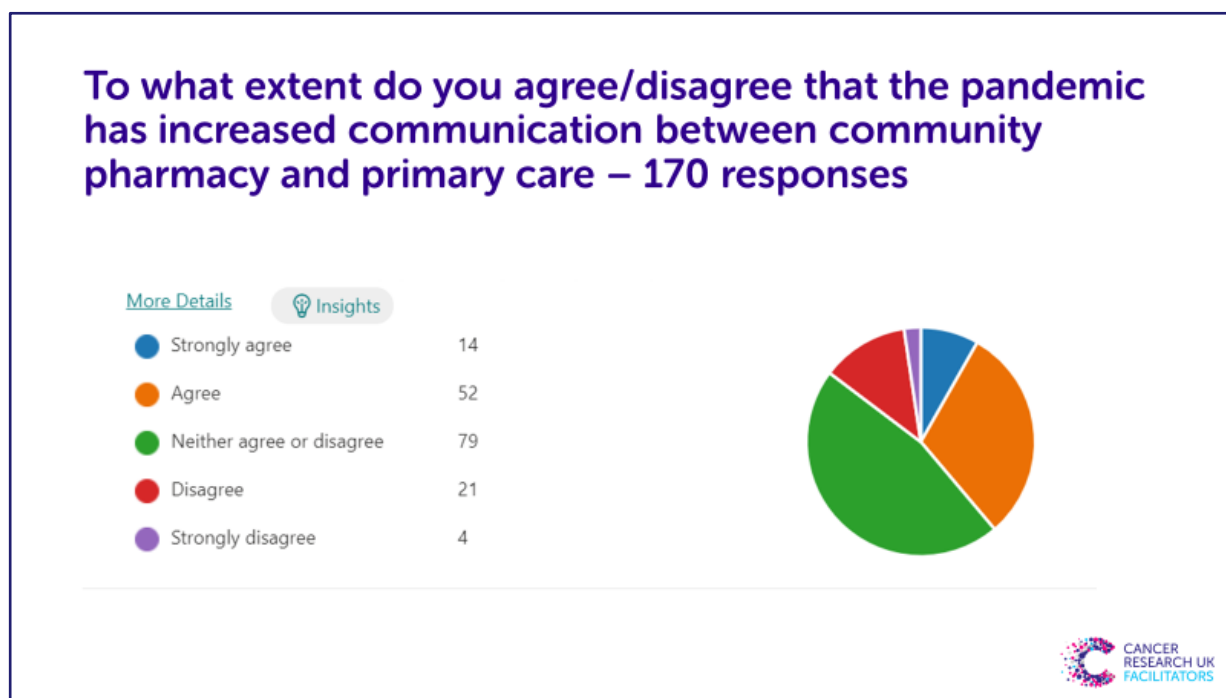
An overview of responses can be seen below in table 2

Table 2.

Option	No. of responses
Patients not presenting to primary care	96
Lack of access to CT	44
Don't know	44
Regrading of referrals	20
Patient reluctance to attend secondary care following referral	13
Lack of access to CXR	8

3) To what extent do you agree or disagree, that the pandemic has increased communication between community pharmacy and primary care?

Respondents were asked about communication between pharmacy teams and GP practices as the public often purchase over the counter medication rather than bother the doctor. We were keen to understand whether there could be opportunities to improve communication to help reduce time between the public presenting with symptoms and getting them checked out.

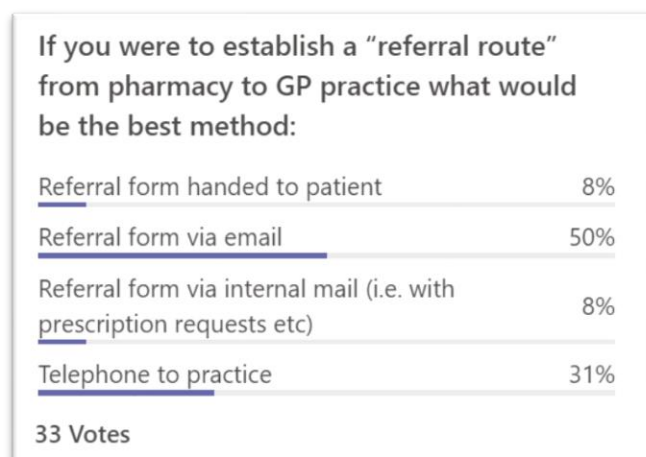
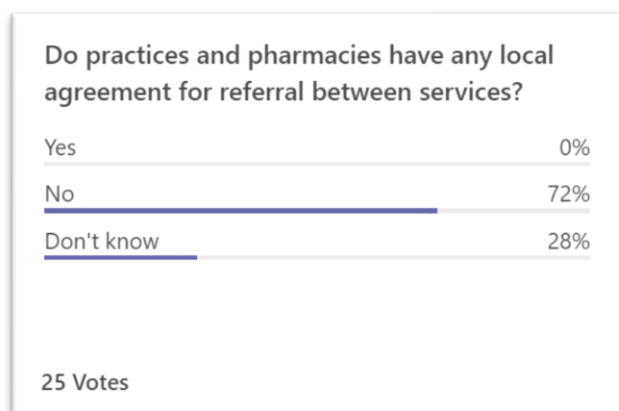
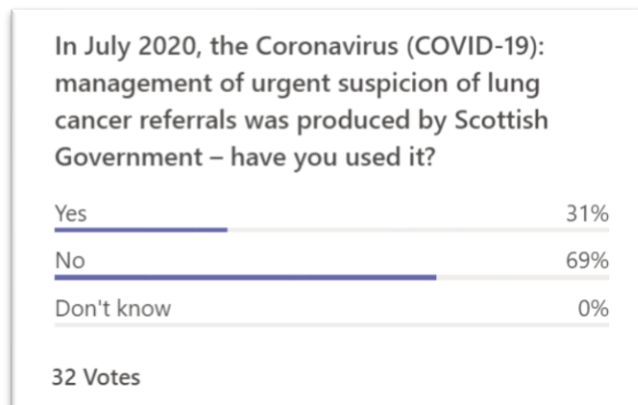


## Responses to Polls and Questions

This webinar was well attended with **94 participants** on the night. Attendees were predominantly GPs but we also had several ANPs, GP trainees and pharmacists.

We encouraged questions to be submitted into the chat box during the webinar and have collated them as well as producing a Q&A FAQ document based on live discussion on the night which can be found in Appendix 1.

We used poll questions throughout the evening and a summary of their responses can be seen below: As previously stated, the number of attendees was 94 but, participation in the poll questions varied throughout the webinar, resulting in the responses not necessarily being representative of overall views.



## Evaluation

All participants were asked to complete the evaluation form in order to receive a certificate of attendance. We received **43 completed forms**.

**Very  
informative  
and well  
run**

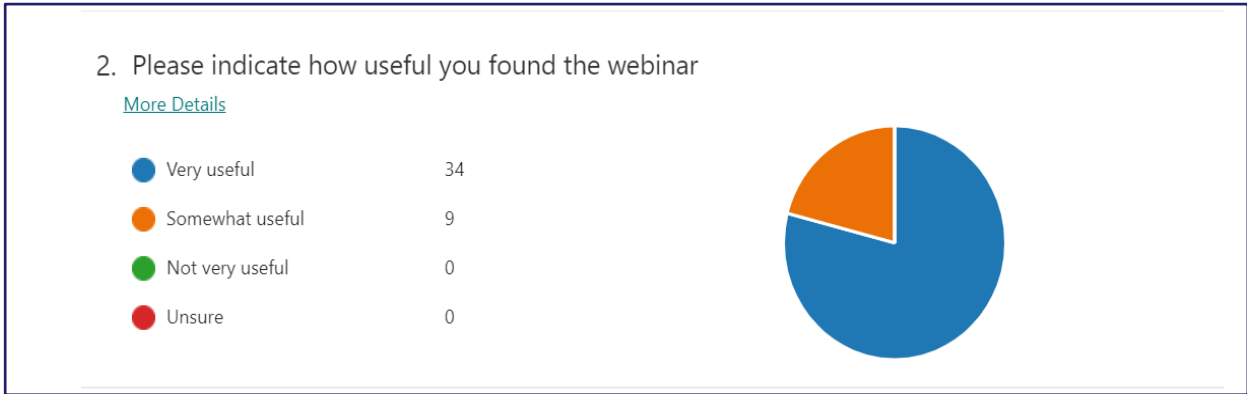
**Excellent webinar  
thank you - very  
informative and  
good to get an  
understanding of  
secondary care  
pathways; Joris  
was brilliant**

**Very good -  
learnt a lot  
and I have  
made changes  
to my medical  
practice**

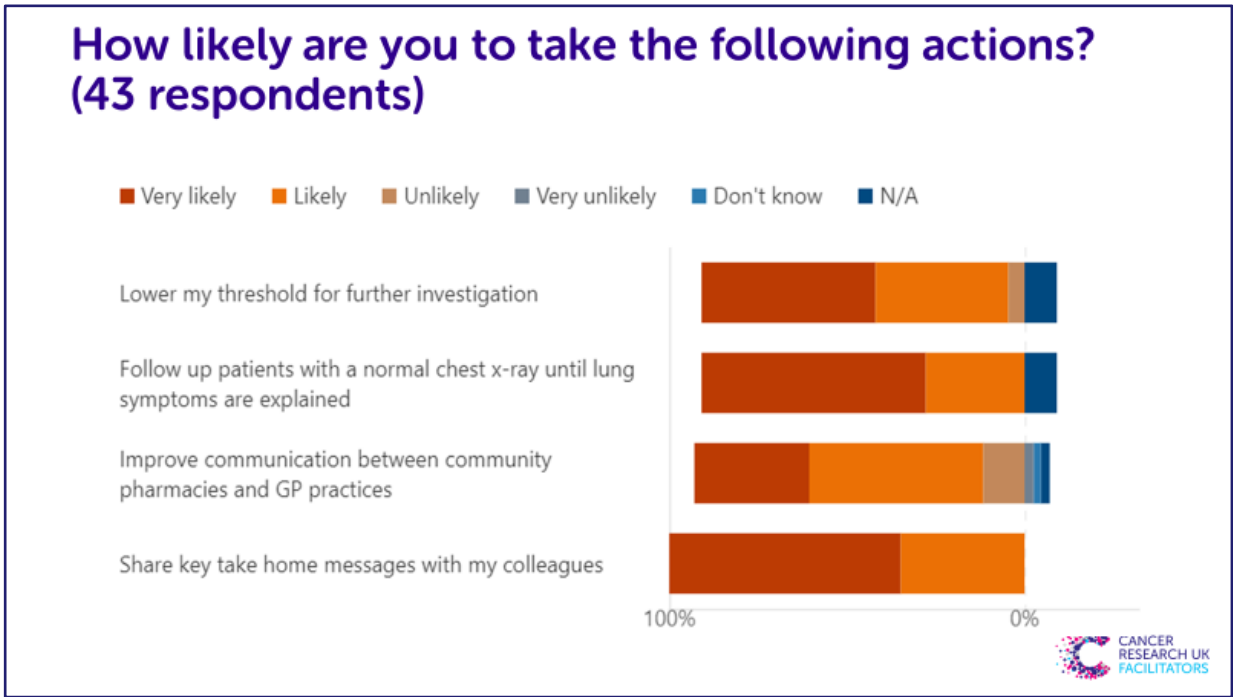
The overall feedback from the webinar was very positive and an **increase in knowledge and confidence** can be seen when we asked attendees to rate their knowledge and confidence out of 5, in referring patients on the urgent suspected lung cancer pathway.

**Pre webinar was 3.28 out of 5.**

**Post webinar was 4.12 out of 5**



**43 responses:** **79%** of attendees who completed the evaluation rated the webinar as very useful with the remaining **21%** somewhat useful.



Following the discussions and presentations throughout the webinar (43 responses):

- **86%** indicated that it will be very likely or likely that they will lower their threshold for further investigation. **4.7%** indicated that it will be unlikely with the remaining **9.3%** selecting N/A.
- **90.7%** indicated that it will be very likely or likely they will follow up patients with a normal x-ray until lung symptoms are explained. **9.3%** selected N/A
- **81.4%** indicated that it will be very likely or likely that they will improve communication between community pharmacy and GP practice. **11.6%** selected unlikely, **2.3 %** very unlikely, **2.3%** don't know and **2.3%** N/A.
- **100%** indicated they were very likely or likely to share key take home messages with their colleagues.

Attendees were asked if they would recommend the webinar to colleagues and we were delighted to see **95%** said yes with the remaining **5%** being unsure (43 responses).

When asked for further suggestions on how earlier diagnosis of lung cancer could be improved in the West of Scotland the suggestions are as follows:

- Give GPs direct access to chest CT scan
- Development and initiation of a lung cancer screening programme needs to take priority
- Much needed increased communication between GPs and pharmacists

## Next steps for CRUK Clinical Engagement Team

- Support and facilitate a regional event for SCAN (Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June)
- Support and facilitate health board level events across Scotland.
- Work at Cluster level on QI projects if requested. Support NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde on introduction of direct access to CT scan
- Support the development of education plans for community pharmacy teams across Scotland for recognition and referral including red flag symptoms in collaboration with NES, Community Pharmacy Scotland and local pharmacy teams. Support needs assessment to develop a robust referral pathway from community pharmacists to GPs.
- Develop bite sized interviews with primary and secondary care colleagues to support continued education following regional and health board events.

# Appendices

## 1. FAQ document



West of Scotland  
Lung Cancer Webinar

## 2. . PDF version of presentation slide deck



1. West of Scotland  
Lung Cancer Webinar