

To: Trust GIRFT Contacts with Cancer Alliances cc-ed for information

Monday 4th July 2022

Re: New tool to help monitor the Lung Cancer Pathway from referral to first treatment

We are aware that some trusts have begun work to collect data to drive improvement work both locally and regionally. In order to facilitate this work and ensure a common approach, we wish to highlight a free-to-access tool available to all trusts in England.

The *National Optimal Lung Cancer Pathway (NOLCP) Model* enables NHS trusts to accurately review lung cancer pathway timings, delivery and performance via a series of dashboards (**Appendix 1**) generated by taking data from their digital clinical systems and uploading to the model. This enables review from referral to diagnosis and first treatment, providing insights beyond the 28-, 31- and 62-day performance measures – e.g. referral and delivery times for tests, imaging procedures and biopsies, enabling clinicians and service managers to see where delays are occurring.

The tool is currently being rolled out with the East of England Cancer Alliance and is already set up in a number of NHS trusts. Results to date have enabled trusts to accurately define where the challenges lie in their pathway and then present to clinicians and service managers.

Initial engagement with the tool will require approximately one working day of analytical time from participating organisations which will facilitate data collection, database query development, uploading to the tool and any identified need for data cleaning. Once this process is completed, future extraction of data is simple and automated.

The model has been co-created by East of England Cancer Alliance, Mid and South Essex NHS Trust and University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and Roche Products Ltd via a collaborative working agreement and is available without charge to NHS trusts.

Implementation of recommendation and actions in the [GIRFT national report for lung cancer](#)

Engagement with the tool can enable progress on one of the key recommendations from the recently shared Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) national report for lung cancer (**Rec 24, listed below**).

One of the key findings from the GIRFT national review was the need to routinely collect more granular data (**see Appendix 2**) on the speed of the pathway from referral through diagnostic work-up to commencement of treatment. Analysing such data holds the key to understanding where the bottlenecks occur in a local patient pathway, allows benchmarking between organisations, and facilitates quality improvement and the recognition of best practice which can then be shared and replicated.

Recommendation 24: Monitor and performance manage trusts according to the key time points within the National Optimal Lung Cancer Pathway.

Actions

a: National bodies should agree on a minimum dataset for monitoring the speed of the lung cancer pathway that includes key metrics defined in NOLCP (72 hours to CT scan from CXR; 21 days to MDT discussion staging and diagnosis confirmed; 49 days to commence treatment) that is more granular than the current cancer waiting times targets.

b: These data should be collected routinely by administrative staff with clinical oversight and validation

c: All lung cancer services should have access to real time data on individual steps in the pathway which will in future be based on the above minimum dataset (72 hours to CT scan from CXR; 21 days to MDT discussion staging and diagnosis confirmed; 49 days to commence treatment).

d: Trusts should share their data on a national performance dashboard to highlight outliers and allow sharing of best practice. This could be included in the Model Hospital website.

We believe adoption of this tool is a useful way for teams to improve in this key area and begin implementing this important GIRFT recommendation. For more information on how to obtain this tool or arrange a demonstration please contact Stuart Underhill, Health System Partner - Community lead, Roche Products Ltd. stuart.underhill@roche.com

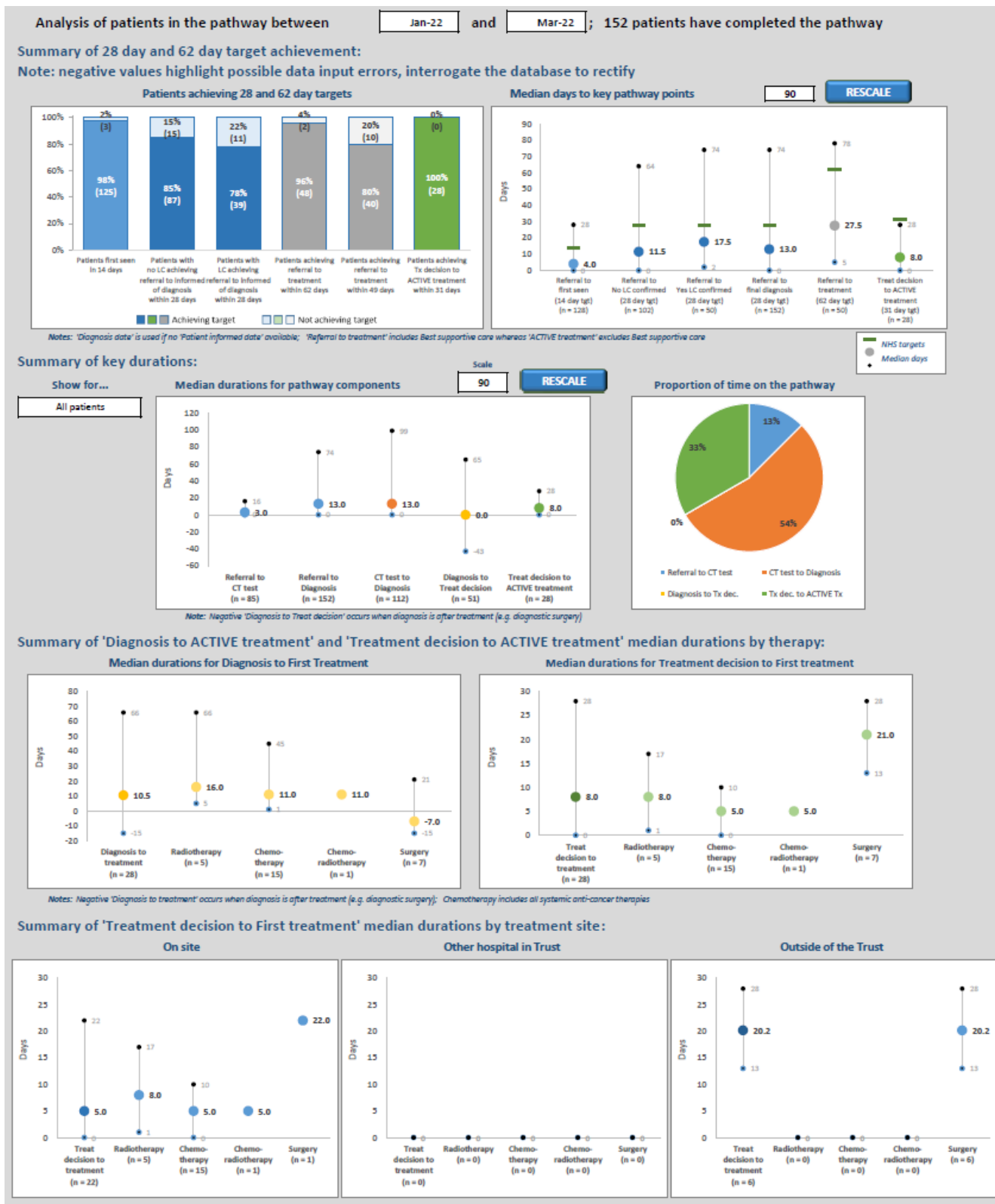
Yours sincerely,

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Appendix 1: Example of dashboards available



Appendix 2: Proposed dataset for lung cancer pathway data

FIELD	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	FORMAT/ ALLOWABLE ENTRIES	RULES AND INFORMATION
Pts_ID	Patient ID	String		Unique patient ID
add_info	Other information (e.g. hospital ID)	String		
ref_date	Referral date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Compulsory input for model
ref_categ	Referral category	String	2WW; Routine; Urgent	2WW refers to '2 week wait'
exit_date	Date when patient leaves pathway	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ref_date and compulsory to include record in analysis (leave this field EMPTY to exclude a record for whatever reason); If LCdiag = 'No' AND LCdiag_informed is EMPTY, then exit_date = FnlDiag_date; If LCdiag = 'No' AND LCdiag_informed populated, then exit_date = LCdiag_informed; If Tx_req = 'No' then exit_date = Tx_Pts_dec_date; If Tx_req = 'Yes' AND Tx_dec <> 'Best supportive care' then exit_date = Tx_first_date; If Tx_req = 'Yes' AND Tx_dec = 'Best supportive care' then exit_date = MAX(Tx_Pts_dec_date, Tx_first_date)
exit_reason	Reason why patient leaves the pathway		No lung cancer; Treatment initiated; Best supportive care; Patient death; Patient moved; Other	If LCdiag = 'No' then exit reason = 'No lung cancer'; If Tx_req = 'No' OR Tx_dec = 'Best supportive care' then exit_reason = 'Best supportive care'; If Tx_req = 'Yes' AND Tx_dec <> 'Best supportive care' then exit_reason = 'Treatment initiated'
xray_reqdate	X-ray request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Value can be before ref_date, but the x-ray episode recorded has to be related to this suspected lung cancer spell (e.g. a recent x-ray request)
xray_testdate	X-ray performed date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= xray_reqdate
xray_rsldate	X-ray result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= xray_testdate
ctscan_reqdate	CT scan request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expect this to be >= xray_rsldate but can be before this value
ctscan_testdate	CT scan performed date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ctscan_reqdate
ctscan_rsldate	CT scan result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ctscan_testdate; Expect this to be >= xray_rsldate but can be before this value; some charts will exclude datapoint records when ctscan_rsldate < xray_rsldate
first_seen	Date patient is first seen	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	This could be anywhere in the early pathway
LCsusp_postCT	LC <u>suspected</u> (e.g. after CT); not LC diagnosed	String	Yes; No	This field is mainly used for prospective use of the model to identify patients with suspected lung cancer but not yet a confirmed diagnosis. NOT TO BE CONFUSED with the 'diagnosis confirmed' fields below. If LCsusp_postCT = 'No', then LCsusp_informed should be EMPTY. Ensure FnlDiag_date AND LCdiag_informed populated (used for 28 day target)
LCsusp_informed	Date where patient is informed of suspected lung cancer	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	CAN BE LEFT EMPTY (mainly used for prospective use of the model). DO NOT CONFUSE WITH 'diagnosis confirmed' fields. If LCsusp_postCT = 'No', then should be EMPTY.
FnlDiag_date	Date on which the final diagnosis is confirmed (accompanied with LCdiag = 'Yes' or LCdiag = 'No')	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	COMPULSORY input for model; Expect this to be >= ref_date, and >= LCsusp_postCT when LCsusp_postCT = 'Yes'
LCdiag	Final lung cancer diagnosis confirmed as 'Yes' or 'No' lung cancer	String	Yes; No	COMPULSORY input for model; If LCdiag = 'No' then all subsequent values, apart from LCdiag_informed, expected to be EMPTY
LCdiag_informed	Date patient informed of final lung diagnosis	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	COMPULSORY input for model; This is exit_date if LCdiag = 'No' (used for 28 day target)
Tx_req	Patient decides to receive treatment	String	Yes; No	Only when LCdiag = 'Yes', else EMPTY; If Tx_req = 'No' then Tx_dec = 'Best supportive care' and all subsequent values, apart from Tx_Pts_dec_date, expected to be EMPTY
Tx_Pts_dec_date	Date of patient decision	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= LCdiag_informed
Tx_dec	Treatment decision	String	Best supportive care;	If Tx_req = 'No', then Tx_dec = 'Best supportive care' is Tx_dec

			Chemotherapy; Radiotherapy; Chemoradiotherapy; Surgery; Unknown	
Tx_place	Place of patient treatment	String	On site; Other hospital in Trust; Outside Trust	Only if Tx_req = 'Yes', else EMPTY
Tx_out_trust	Site of treatment	String		Only if Tx_place <> 'On site', else EMPTY
Tx_first_date	First treatment date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= Tx_Pts_dec_date
ctbrain_reqdate	CT brain request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
ctbrain_testdate	CT brain scan performed date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ctbrain_reqdate
ctbrain_rsltdate	CT brain scan result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ctbrain_testdate
petscan_reqdate	PET Scan request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
petscan_testdate	PET Scan performed date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= petscan_reqdate
petscan_rsltdate	PET Scan result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= petscan_testdate
lungfunc_reqdate	Full Lung Function test request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
lungfunc_testdate	Full Lung Function test performed date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= lungfunc_reqdate
lungfunc_rsltdate	Full Lung Function test result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= lungfunc_testdate
other_name	Other test (specify)	String		Populate when other_reqdate <> EMPTY
other_reqdate	Other test request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
other_testdate	Other test performed date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= other_reqdate
other_rsltdate	Other test result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= other_testdate
ebus_reqdate	Endobronchial ultrasound request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
ebus_testdate	Endobronchial ultrasound performed date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ebus_reqdate
ebus_diagdate	Endobronchial ultrasound provisional diagnosis result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ebus_testdate
ebus_ihcdage	Endobronchial ultrasound immunohistochemistry result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ebus_testdate
bronc_reqdate	Bronchoscopy request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
bronc_testdate	Bronchoscopy performed date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= bronc_reqdate
bronc_diagdate	Bronchoscopy provisional diagnosis result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= bronc_testdate
bronc_ihcdage	Bronchoscopy immunohistochemistry result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= bronc_testdate
ctbiop_reqdate	CT guided biopsy request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
ctbiop_testdate	CT guided biopsy test date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ctbiop_reqdate
ctbiop_diagdate	CT guided biopsy provisional diagnosis result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ctbiop_testdate
ctbiop_ihcdage	CT guided biopsy immunohistochemistry result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ctbiop_testdate
otherbiop_name	Other biopsy (specify)	String		Populate when otherbiop_reqdate <> EMPTY
otherbiop_reqdate	Other biopsy request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
otherbiop_testdate	Other biopsy test date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= otherbiop_reqdate
otherbiop_diagdate	Other biopsy result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= otherbiop_testdate
otherbiop_ihcdage	Other biopsy result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= otherbiop_testdate
pdl1_reqdate	PDL-1 request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
pdl1_rsltdate	PDL-1 result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= pdl1_reqdate
egfr_reqdate	EGFR request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
egfr_rsltdate	EGFR result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= egfr_reqdate

alk_reqdate	ALK request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
alk_rsltdate	ALK result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= alk_reqdate
ros1_reqdate	ROS-1 request date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Expected to be >= ref_date and >= ctscan_reqdate; not compulsory
ros1_rsltdate	ROS-1 result date	Date	DD/MM/YYYY	>= ros1_reqdate

Appendix 2: Example of dashboards available

