



Oxford Respiratory Early Diagnosis Service (REDS) PDP

Case study: Designing & implementing rapid access to the lung cancer pathway

Oxford University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust October 2020 – July 2022

What is a PDP?

The **Pathway Development Programme (PDP)** is a collaborative working agreement between MSD and the NHS designed to support healthcare providers to optimise cancer pathways, enabling patients to be diagnosed and treated faster.

Objectives

- Improve lung cancer diagnosis by developing an early diagnosis clinic to provide next day CT scans for patients with abnormal chest X-ray
- Support the Trust to work towards the 28 and 62 day cancer waiting time targets and meeting National Optimal Lung Cancer Pathway (NOLCP) and Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) recommendations.

Challenges

Lung cancer diagnostic pathways can be complicated and adherence to the 62-day pathway is challenging. Faster treatment and diagnosis improves outcomes, reducing the risk of performance status decline and potentially enabling patients to have access to a broader range of treatment options.

Solution

Redesigning and project managing the service with the Oxford REDS team, focusing on early diagnosis through:

- Provision of next day CT clinics for patients with abnormal chest X-rays
- Hot reporting of CT scans
- Same day outpatient appointments
- Same day ordering of diagnostic bundles for patients with abnormal chest X-rays

“Working with the MSD team helped us focus and move the project forward as a whole team”

- REDS Clinical Lead

Provider	Serves 5 local authorities
Total patient population	655,000 [1]
Lung cancer patients impacted/year	462 [2,3]

Impact

Patient benefits

- Average reduction of 16 days in the time taken to move from chest X-Ray to receiving treatment
- Patients’ overall satisfaction of new REDS lung cancer pathway (77% very satisfied, 23% satisfied)

NHS benefits

- Optimised pathway aligned to the NOLCP
- 16-day efficiency saving average time from chest x-ray reported to treatment
- Pathway time from urgent 2-week wait (2ww) referral to patients being diagnosed, reduced on avg. by 15 days

16 day pathway efficiency saving	Aligned to NOLCP
77% patients very satisfied	15 day avg. reduction from referral to diagnosis

Scan the QR code to view more pathway development programs between MSD and the NHS



If you would like further information or would like to meet your MSD representative please email msdukhealthcare@msd.com

References:

- 1 Hospital, O. (2019) Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Annual Report and Accounts. Available at: <https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/about/publications/> (Accessed: April 2026).
- 2 HU.K. population (live) (no date) Worldometer. Available at: <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/uk-population/> (Accessed: April 2026).
- 3 Lung cancer statistics (2022) Cancer Research UK. Available at: <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/lung-cancer> (Accessed: April 2026)