



Australian Government

NATIONAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Referring patients for a low-dose CT scan

Referring patients for a low-dose CT scan under the National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP)

A resource for GPs to follow when referring an eligible patient for the National Lung Cancer Screening Program.

When referring, complete these 3 actions:

1

Check eligibility and complete the NCSR form

Assess your patient's eligibility and complete the Eligibility & Enrolment form in the National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR). Confirm the patient meets all eligibility criteria:



Aged between 50 and 70 years



Currently smoke or have quit smoking in the past 10 years



Show no signs or symptoms suggestive of lung cancer



Have a history of tobacco cigarette smoking of at least 30 pack-years

Why this matters:

Patients under 50 or over 70 are not eligible and will not be followed up through the NCSR. Only eligible patients should get a low-dose CT request form. If your patient is concerned about their lung health, please discuss alternative options.

2

Use the right request form

Use the NLCSP program-specific low-dose CT request form found in your clinical software (Best Practice, Medical Director, Communicare, MMEx) or on the department website.

If you use your usual form, write 'NLCSP' clearly on it and include:

- family history of lung cancer (in a parent, sibling or child)
- details of any past chest CT scans (if known)
- any history of cancer.

Why this matters:

The NLCSP specific low-dose CT request form captures all the necessary clinical details to support radiologist's decision making. **Without 'NLCSP' on the form, the scan may not be bulk-billed.**

3

Tell the patient to book their scan

Once you have provided the low-dose CT scan request, inform your patient they will need to book directly with a local radiology clinic after the appointment. Help them find a clinic if needed.

You must issue a new NLCSP low-dose CT request form for every screening round, including interval scans.

Understanding results and your ongoing role

Radiologists use NLCSP structured reporting

You will receive the low-dose CT scan report through usual imaging reporting arrangements. Radiology providers are also required to upload reports to the NCSR and My Health Record. The NCSR will also notify you when the results report is available.

Use this table to guide your next steps after each scan

Category	Risk Finding	Your role
0	Incomplete (suggestive of inflammatory or infectious process)	Inform patient a repeat low-dose CT scan is required in 1-, 2-, or 3-months. Issue a new low-dose CT request form, as required.
1	Very low risk	Reassure patient. Advise the patient to continue screening in 2 years. Issue a new NLCSP low-dose CT request for their next screen.
2	Low risk	Reassure patient. Advise the patient they are due for a follow up scan in 12 months. Issue a low-dose CT request form for their next screen.
3	Low to moderate risk	Discuss findings. Advise the patient they are due for a follow-up screen at 6-months. Issue a new NLCSP low-dose CT request for their next screen.
4	Moderate risk	Discuss findings. Advise the patient they are due for a follow-up screen at 3-months. Issue a new NLCSP low-dose CT request for their next screen.
5-6	High risk or very high risk	Refer the patient to a respiratory physician or specialist linked to a lung cancer multidisciplinary team. Complete the NLCSP specialist referral form so the NCSR can act as a safety net.

Ongoing responsibilities



Issue a new low-dose CT request for every scan. Use the program-specific form, or write 'NLCSP' on every generic form.



Communicate results and next steps.



Complete the Participant Management Form to keep the NCSR informed of your patient's status.



Submit the Specialist Referral Form for category 5-6 findings.

Actionable additional findings

Where a patient has actionable additional findings on their lung cancer screen that are unrelated to lung cancer, follow the management recommendations included on the radiology report. In most cases, participants can continue with scheduled lung cancer screening while those findings are investigated and managed in parallel.

Stay up to date with the Program Guidelines

Scan the QR code or visit www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/nlcsp-guidelines



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For more information:

health.gov.au/nlcsp

or call the National Cancer Screening Register
on **1800 627 701**