



Development and implementation of a standardised Lung Cancer Navigator Framework to define roles and improve care coordination

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INTRODUCTION

Lung cancer care is complex and requires coordination across multidisciplinary pathways. Although Lung Cancer Navigators/Coordinators are increasingly integrated into care delivery, variation in role definition and practice remains, leading to variability in practice and patient experience.

PROJECT AIM

Develop a structured, consensus-based, Framework to define and standardise the lung cancer navigator role across all stages of the the lung cancer pathway.

METHODS

- 01

MULTIDISCIPLINARY WORKING GROUP
Nurse consultant, lung cancer clinical nurse specialists and lung cancer navigators.
- 02

FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT
Review of literature and existing models; identification of core competencies and responsibilities; multidisciplinary consultation; systematic consensus process.
- 03

CONSULTATION
Draft framework shared across NHS and devolved nation trusts/healthboards with feedback collected from multidisciplinary colleagues.

ACCESS THE FRAMEWORK

SCAN TO VIEW THE FULL FRAMEWORK



Take the standardised Lung Cancer Navigator Framework with you.

The QR code provides direct access to the full framework and supporting material.

THE STANDARDISED NAVIGATOR FRAMEWORK

SIX CORE DOMAINS

A shared structure for role clarity, competency and consistent care coordination

- 01

CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE
Lung cancer pathways, treatments and services
- 02

COMMUNICATION & PATIENT SUPPORT
Information, advocacy and person-centred support
- 03

CARE COORDINATION
Appointments, referrals, investigations and follow-up
- 04

PATHWAY MANAGEMENT
Tracking, identifying delays and resolving barriers
- 05

MDT WORKING
Cross-professional communication and collaboration
- 06

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Competency, education, assessment and quality improvement

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The findings demonstrate substantial commonality in navigator activities, while highlighting the need for greater consistency in role definition.

- DEFINE

Clear role expectations and responsibilities
- DEVELOP

Competency and professional development
- PROMOTE

Consistent, patient-centred care
- STRENGTHEN

Multidisciplinary coordination

LIMITATIONS

- Variation in navigator roles across NHS trusts and healthboards
- Findings based on reported activities rather than direct observation
- Further evaluation is required to assess impact on patient outcomes

CONCLUSION

This project demonstrates the feasibility of developing a standardised lung cancer navigator framework to reduce variation in role definition and support consistent care coordination across the lung cancer pathway.

NEXT STEPS

- Pilot the Framework across selected NHS lung cancer services
- Evaluate its impact on consistency of navigator roles
- Gather patient and navigator feedback
- Refine the framework one year after implementation
- Develop an education /competency package to support adoption

RESULTS

What do lung cancer navigators do?

62 RESPONSES

UK NHS trusts/healthboards



KEY FINDINGS AND IMPACT

- 92%

Work with cancer teams
- 92%

Effective communication with/on behalf of patients
- 87%

Tests, appointments and follow-up

Navigator roles encompass a broad range of coordination, communication and patient-centred activities across the lung cancer pathway.

IMPACT

- Identifies core activities that should be consistent across navigator roles
- Provides clearer expectations for patients, navigators and MDTs
- Supports more consistent, coordinated and patient centred care
- Provides a foundation for future role development and evaluation

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE • The framework provides a common structure for defining the lung cancer navigator role while allowing flexibility to reflect local service needs.