

Urgent Chest X-ray Requests and 2WW Lung Cancer Referrals – further clarification

Access to urgent chest x-ray by primary care has had to be suspended on ICE by LTHT, and as highlighted before, patient self-referral is also suspended. LTHT are currently trying to reduce the number of people accessing the hospital. In addition by nature of the matter we don't want people who are coughing to enter the hospital through an uncontrolled route. Therefore, LTHT are **not** currently recommending that a chest x-ray should be carried out when someone has had a cough for more than 3 weeks.

The current guidance is that a 2ww lung form should be filled in and sent in the usual way for any patient who has had a cough for more than 3 weeks **and** has other red flag symptoms for example persistent pain, haemoptysis or weight loss. Upon receipt of the 2ww, LTHT will review and will organise an urgent CT scan if appropriate.

Respiratory consultant resource within LTHT is already stretched and therefore we would encourage primary care clinicians to safety net patients with non-2ww symptoms, but with a chronic cough of >3 weeks rather than submit advice and guidance requests. If primary care clinicians have **significant concerns** regarding the management of a patient with a cough > 3weeks please do call the respiratory consultant on-call through the [primary care access line \(PCAL\)](#).

LTHT Radiology are working to develop a route so that primary care will have access to chest radiographs (CXRs) for those cases where the level of concern for urgent/sinister pathology is high and cannot wait a delay of several weeks/2-3 months due to the pandemic. This service will not be for patients with suspected or likely COVID-19 infection. As soon as this new pathway is confirmed details will be shared with primary care. It is hoped that this will be made available early next week.

In addition we hope to confirm the position with regards to any CXR where follow up has been advised by Radiology previously, and how FU CXR might be managed over the next 12 weeks. Further details will follow with regards to this early next week.