



# Detect Lung Cancer Early

## Early signs and symptoms of lung cancer can be subtle

Many cancer patients have seen a GP, often the same one, on several occasions before diagnosis<sup>(2)</sup>

Perceptions of delay in cancer diagnosis are a leading cause of medico-legal claims in general practice<sup>(3)</sup>

The presence of COPD increases the risk of lung cancer up to five times<sup>(1)</sup>

## Who is at risk?<sup>(4)</sup>

Male, female. Older, aged 50 years +

Smokers, ex-smokers, passive smokers

Socio-economically deprived

Exposure to environmental radiation (radon)

## What are the signs/symptoms?<sup>(5)</sup>

Changing cough/new or persistent cough

Breathlessness/worsening breathlessness

Chest or shoulder pain

Fatigue

Loss of weight/appetite

Clubbing

Thrombocytosis

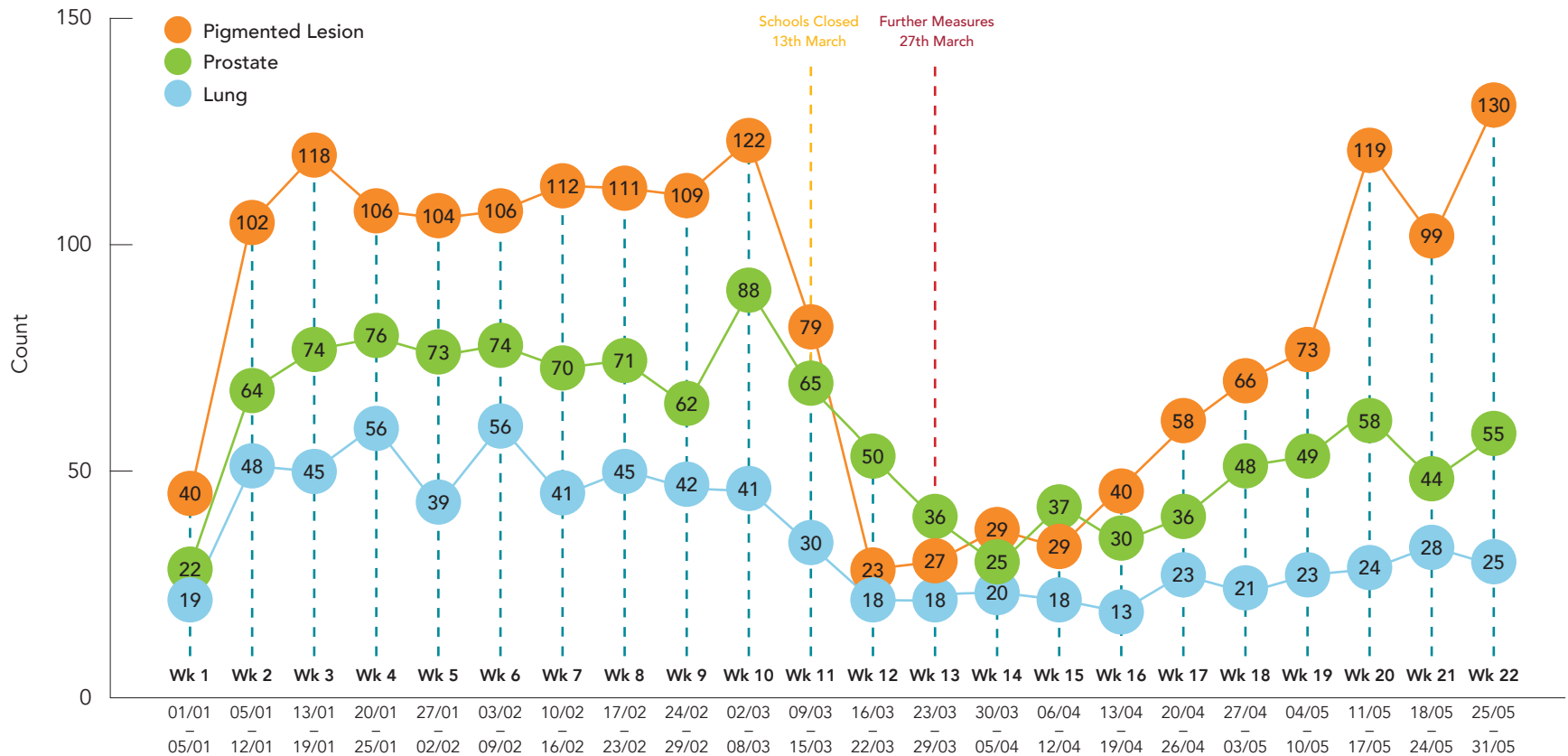


## COPD & Lung Cancer – explanatory notes

1. Systemic manifestations and co-morbidities of COPD Eur Resp J 2009;33:1165-85.
2. Patient perceptions of barriers to the early diagnosis of lung cancer and advice for health service improvement. Family Practice 2013; 30: 436-444 (New Zealand)
3. The epidemiology of malpractice claims in primary care: a systematic review. BMJ Open. 2013;3
4. NCRI Lung cancer factsheet May 2018
5. What are the clinical features of lung cancer before diagnosis is made? A population-based, case-control study. Thorax. 2005;60:1059-1065.



# Impact of Covid-19 on Electronic Referrals to Rapid Access Clinics





# Impact of Covid-19 on Electronic Referrals to Rapid Access Clinics Explanatory notes

- The number of e-referrals sent to each of the Rapid Access Lung Cancer, Rapid Access Prostate Cancer, Pigmented Lesion and Symptomatic Breast Disease clinics is reported to NCCP each Monday
- Note not all referrals to these services are received electronically from GPs. This is particularly the case for lung cancer, where in some hospitals patients are referred from their radiology department, following suspicious findings on a chest x-ray or CT
- The numbers of weekly e-referrals dropped substantially across all rapid assessment clinics, following the introduction of COVID-19 measures aimed at restricting the movement of the general population
- Between the weeks 04/05/20 -18/05/20 the NCCP ran a public and health care professional awareness campaign to encourage members of the public with symptoms suspicious for cancer to telephone their GP. Subsequent weeks saw a significant, albeit incomplete, recovery in e-referrals.
- GP referral rates to rapid access services (and presumably patient presentation to GPs) has improved following both national communication to reassure the public and the relaxation of general restrictions on movement due to decreased incidence of COVID-19
- Concerns remain that some patients may remain nervous or slow to act on potential symptoms of cancer during the pandemic