

HIPS/19/52 - How should Scotland respond to the challenge of Lung cancer screening? A mixed methods feasibility study

Lung cancer is a major cause of death in Scotland; our rates are higher than many other European countries and it is usually diagnosed at a late stage. Studies in Europe and the US have shown that offering screening with a CT scan can reduce deaths from the disease – but only amongst those at highest risk. We need evidence from Scottish research which examines the effectiveness of this kind of screening in our population - which includes areas of high deprivation, and is more dispersed in rural locations than the rest of the UK. We propose a study which will examine how we can best identify those at the highest risk of lung cancer in the Scottish population, and offer them a medical check on their 'lung health', and screening using CT if their risk of cancer is high enough. We will see how acceptable people find this kind of screening, and how we could improve our processes to meet the needs of the Scottish population. Our findings will help us design a much larger study which will be able to examine the impact of screening on improving outcomes in Scottish lung cancer patients.