



Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer Launched by the Irish Thoracic Society

Early diagnosis and multi-disciplinary care lead to better outcomes for patients. This is the overarching principle in the ***Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer, 3rd Edition***, launched today 25th February, by the Irish Thoracic Society (ITS).

The Guidelines provide the basis for the National Cancer Control Programme's (NCCP) development of services for lung cancer. Lung Cancer Rapid Access Diagnostic Clinics have already opened in a number of centres with more to open in 2010.

"The publication of the **Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer 3rd Edition** marks an important milestone in this process. It provides a blueprint for the provision of timely and appropriate multidisciplinary care for patients with lung cancer. This will lead to earlier diagnosis and improved outcomes for patients. It will also provide standards against which the delivery of care can be measured," said Prof JJ Gilmartin, Chair of the ITS Lung Cancer Sub-committee.

"Lung cancer is at last beginning to receive the attention it merits as one of the most common types of cancer in both men and women in Ireland and one of our most common causes of cancer-related mortality." said Dr Terry O'Connor, President of the Irish Thoracic Society. "We commend Professor Tom Keane and his team for choosing to develop lung cancer care services as part of the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP)."

Prof Gilmartin recognised the work of the Irish Thoracic Society Lung Cancer Sub-committee. "This group was established out of concern and frustration at deficiencies in lung cancer care services over many years and is representative of medical professionals from all stages of lung cancer care, different hospital types and regional spread. Their efforts have resulted in this robust and comprehensive document and will ultimately lead to better outcomes for our patients with lung cancer."

The ***Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer, 3rd Edition*** can be downloaded from the ITS website: www.irishthoracicsociety.com.

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