

When Should I Call my Doctor?

A guide for patients being investigated or treated for lung cancer

What should I do if I have these symptoms?

If you have new symptoms or if the symptoms you have get worse while you are waiting to have tests or get your results, talk to your health care provider as soon as possible. **Do not wait** until your next appointment or until they ask you.

The following symptoms rarely happen, but if they do, it is important to get medical help.

When should I call 911 or go to the Emergency Department?

- Severe shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or tightness in your chest
- Coughing up a lot of blood (a mouthful)
- Sudden or worsening back or neck pain that is different than your regular pain, is new or does not stop
- Numbness, loss of feeling or tingling (pins and needles) in your arms or legs
- Severe muscle weakness in your arms or legs (your arms or legs feel weighed down and heavy)
- Seizures
- Odd behaviour, behaving out of character, or personality changes
- If you are currently having systemic therapy (also called chemotherapy) and you have a temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or higher, or uncontrolled shivering

Take this sheet with you to the Emergency Department. Tell the paramedic, nurse or doctor that you are being investigated or treated for lung cancer.

Remember, these symptoms happen rarely.

When should I see my family doctor, nurse practitioner or call 811?

- Increase in shortness of breath, worsening shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Coughing up small spots of blood
- Severe pain or dull pain that won't go away
- Severe headache that won't go away
- Severe weakness, tiredness or fatigue
- Unexpected weight loss

If you still have concerns or questions, see your family doctor or nurse practitioner. If you do not have a family doctor or can't get an appointment, you can call 811 to speak to a nurse. 811 is available anytime, day or night for non-emergency health information.

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This publication is updated every three years or as clinical practice changes. This information does not replace the advice of your health care provider. If you have any questions please ask your health care provider.

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