

A guide for patients being investigated for lung cancer

If you have new symptoms or if the symptoms you have get worse while you are waiting to have tests or get your results, **do not wait** until your next appointment.

Call your family doctor/nurse practitioner or 811 if you have any of the following:

- Increase in shortness of breath, worsening shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Coughing up small spots of blood (flecks) into a tissue
- New or worsening 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 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.)

Call 911 or go to the Emergency Department

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

- Severe or new sudden onset of shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or tightness in your chest
- Coughing up a lot of blood (for example: a mouthful of blood that you need to spit out)
- 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

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

Patient and family feedback is very important to us.

We would like to invite you to send any comments or suggestions on how to improve this booklet to education.cancercare@nshealth.ca or feel free to call us at 1-866-599-2267.

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Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!*

Nova Scotia Health

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The information in this brochure is for informational and educational purposes only.

The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider. The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.