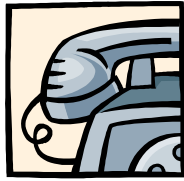


## Telephone contacts with lung cancer patients



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Period of data collection: September 2007 – now writing up

Background: Practitioners at the study site found that making phone calls to patients with lung cancer was highly stressful. They had no training for this aspect of their role and were unsure of its value. Following a Trust day on Evidence Based Practice, the lead researcher decided to channel her concerns into a search for evidence, the absence of which, along with a lack of policy guidance, led to a desire to generate evidence through research.

Aims: The study aimed to address the following questions:

1. What is the current practice of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) in lung cancer regarding telephone contact with lung cancer patients?
2. What do CNS's in lung cancer perceive to be the value of telephone contact with lung cancer patients?
3. What do CNS's in lung cancer perceive to be the disadvantages of telephone contact with lung cancer patients?

Data collection: In order to maximise the acquisition of comprehensive and in-depth information, a cross-sectional postal survey was used. This allowed knowledge to be collected from CNSs in lung cancer across the UK. The National Forum of Lung Cancer Nurses (NFLCN) consists of approximately 200 CNSs in posts throughout the UK. This provided the sample for the study. The NFLCN agreed to provide mailing labels of its membership. The investigators developed a brief confidential survey on current practice and perspectives relating to telephone follow up. Clinicians and researchers reviewed the survey, which was refined based on their feedback. A final draft of the survey was administered to 2 nurses (both involved in telephone calls to patients) to determine the time required to answer it and its clarity. The survey consists of 28 questions; the majority have fixed choice responses, but there are open-ended questions for respondents' comments as well.

Analysis: Data were analysed through statistical analysis using SPSS software. Written comments were analysed through content analysis.

Findings: The results are still being analysed in preparation for publication. It is hoped that the results will provide an insight into the current practice in relation to telephone support of lung cancer patients.