

### **3.13 Audit – A study of guideline adherence in pulmonary nodule surveillance.**

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Pulmonary nodules are a common imaging finding encountered by physicians. Incidental detection of pulmonary nodules has risen significantly with increased Computed Tomography scanning. The British Thoracic Society and Fleischner Society guidelines are used to guide longitudinal pulmonary nodule surveillance (PNS) in Ireland. There is considerable variability in physician adherence to these guidelines, and is typically less than 50% [1]. The aim of this single centre audit was to evaluate the adherence to guidelines in patients being followed up by the PNS service. Over a 24 month period, 162 patients were reviewed by the PNS service. 71 continued surveillance, 68 were discharged with stability, 7 were referred to the rapid access lung cancer clinic, and 17 discontinued surveillance due to death (n=5) or patient preference (n=12). 47.5% (n=77) had multiple pulmonary nodules. 145 patients were appropriate for analysis of guideline adherence. 60% underwent compliant surveillance. Delayed or early imaging, and prolonged period of surveillance were the most common reasons for failure of adherence. The adherence to PNS guidelines is greater in this centre than in other similar centres in published studies [1]. Barriers to guideline adherence include resource availability, patient compliance, SARS-CoV2 pandemic, and physician interpretation of guidelines.

#### **References**

1. McDonald, Jennifer S et al. "Addition of the Fleischner Society Guidelines to Chest CT Examination Interpretive Reports Improves Adherence to Recommended Follow-up Care for Incidental Pulmonary Nodules." *Academic radiology* vol. 24,3 (2017): 337-344. doi:10.1016/j.acra.2016.08.026

***Conflict of Interest: None to declare***