

### **3.15 Two years on, how do we measure up? A re-audit of Rapid Access Lung Cancer Clinic Deferral Letter Process**

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The National Cancer Control Programme recommends a 14 day window for review in Rapid Access Lung Clinic (RALC) from day of referral. University Hospital Limerick is the primary centre for RALC referrals in the Mid-West and thus receives large volumes. This results in a strain to meet this set standard. Many referrals do not need formal RALC review and can be deferred with advice for repeat imaging or for no action required following review of the referral. An initial audit of this deferral letter process was undertaken in 2020 and concluded that 1/3 of patients referred to RALC can be safely deferred back to their initial referrer, however 15% did not have the appropriate follow-up arranged as advised. Following this, our protocol was updated to include a follow-up telephone call. This study aims to evaluate RALC deferral letters from January-June 2021 and to compare outcomes to those reported in 2020. NIMIS Radiology System was utilised to evaluate if appropriate re-imaging was carried out as advised. 280 RALC referrals were received during the period of review, of which 15% (n=43) met deferral criteria. Of these, 42% required no action and 58% had furthering imaging recommended. Of those requiring further imaging, 80% had this undertaken as appropriate with 15% re-referred due to persistent abnormalities. The percentage of patients who did not have follow-up as advised represented 12% of all deferred patients (n=5). This study again highlights that a particular subset of patients do not need formal RALC review and can be safely triaged back to the initial referrer. The updated protocol has reduced the number of patients without appropriate follow-up.

**Conflict of Interest:** None to declare