

Early Diagnosis for Symptomatic Lung Cancer

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Symptomatic Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is the third most prevalent cancer in the UK and the most common cause of cancer related death [1]. Each year, there are approximately 48,500 new incidences of lung cancer (13% of all new cases) and 34,800 deaths (21% of all cancer deaths) [1]. Furthermore, only 45% of patients diagnosed with lung cancer survive for more than one year after diagnosis [2]. The reasons for these poor outcomes are myriad, but stage at presentation is key: in the UK, 61% of patients diagnosed with stage I lung cancer survive for five years or more compared to only 4% of those patients diagnosed at stage IV [3]. In addition, 32% of lung cancers are diagnosed via an emergency presentation to hospital, making it the most common route to diagnosis [4]. These statistics highlight the need to improve outcomes, but the importance of earlier diagnosis to shift towards earlier stage diagnosis and improve fitness for treatment.

Early Diagnosis of Symptomatic Lung Cancer Working Group

The Targeted Lung Health Check programme being rolled out across Greater Manchester aims to decrease the stage at diagnosis for asymptomatic patients, ultimately improving outcomes. To ensure an equitable focus on symptomatic lung cancer, the Early Diagnosis of Symptomatic Lung Cancer Working Group has been set up and will function as a sub-group of the lung pathway board. The primary aim for the group is to scope, pilot and evaluate innovations that tackle the barriers to early diagnosis. The group will combine expertise from primary, and secondary care as well as colleagues from locality teams, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and patient / carer representatives. Amongst the new innovations, already ongoing work will be managed through the group including a healthbot project and the Self-Referral Chest X-Ray pathway (SRCXR).

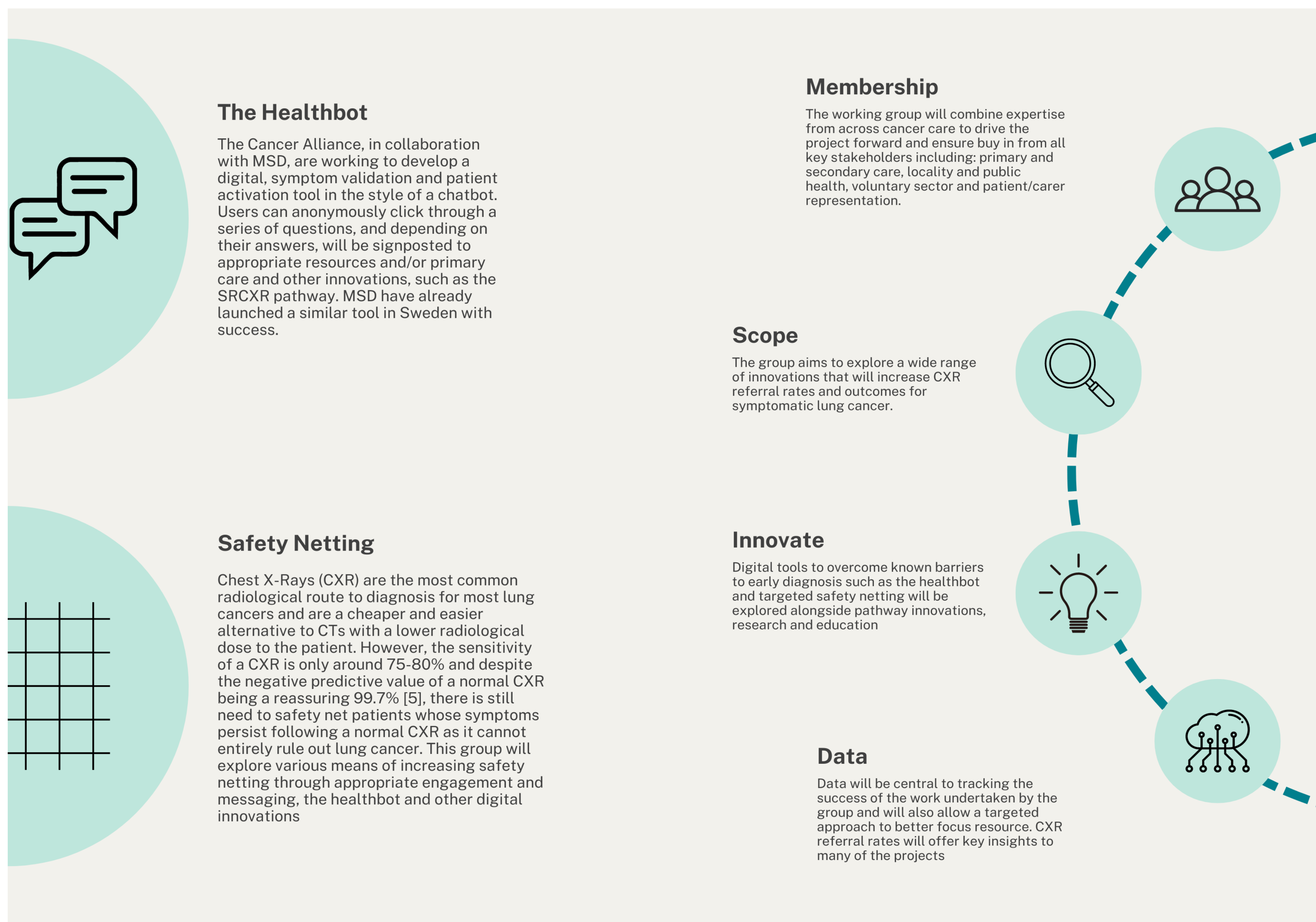


Figure 1: Infographic outlining the key aims of the Early Diagnosis of Symptomatic Lung Cancer Working Group as well as highlight descriptions of two of the major pieces of work already underway as part of the overall project, the healthbot and safety netting work.

References

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