

The LUCAS Study

In what ways do smokers delay presentation of symptoms due to factors associated with smoking?

Annie Hendry, Richard D Neal, Julia Hiscock
A Health and Care Research Wales funded PhD studentship

Study design

Background

Almost all cases of lung cancer are attributable to smoking. Smokers often delay visiting their GP with chest symptoms. This project aims to explore the reasons for those delays, particularly, perceived barriers and facilitators to presentation due to feelings of stigma, blame, and shame.

Phase 1

- A systematic literature review to explore previous research relating to smoking, lung cancer, and delayed presentation
- A narrative literature review to explore broader sociological themes such as stigma, blame and shame

Phase 2

- 40 qualitative interviews with recently diagnosed lung cancer patients
- The interviews will explore the experiences of lung cancer sufferers
- Interview guides to be based on evidence gained from the literature reviews in phase one

Phase 3

- 4-6 focus groups with current smokers aged fifty years and older
- The groups will be designed to discover perspectives on health, smoking, and previous experience of primary care
- Topic guides based on evidence from phases 1 and 2

Expected outcomes

- A better understanding of perceived barriers to presentation for smokers
- A detailed understanding of the feelings of both smokers and lung cancer patients regarding smoking and primary care
- Identification of facilitators allowing smokers to present symptoms



Author contact details: Annie Hendry: a.hendry@bangor.ac.uk