



UNITED KINGDOM
LUNG CANCER COALITION

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PATIENTS FAILED BY SHORTAGE OF LUNG CANCER NURSES

Lung cancer patients are being failed by a shortage of specialist nurses, according to oncology experts.

There are believed to be just 200 full-time equivalent lung cancer nurse specialists in the UK supporting 38,000 people diagnosed every year, the UK Lung Cancer Coalition (UKLCC) said. In England there is one specialist nurse for every

132 patients, compared to one breast cancer specialist nurse for 82 patients.

'In the current economic climate, we must ensure that specialist nurses are not a target for cuts,' said the report *Reviewing the Lung Cancer Plan: Are we Emerging from the Shadow of Lung Cancer?*

UKLCC chair Dame Gill Oliver, a nurse, said lung cancer specialist

nurses are frequently moved to fill gaps on short-staffed wards.

Harrogate lung cancer specialist and National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses representative Nicola Bell said: 'Without lung cancer nurses, patients will suffer as they will not have access to the in-depth knowledge, care and support that these specialist nurses can provide.'