



ALK Positive Lung Cancer (UK)

Second Opinions

NHS and private patients can ask for a free second opinion and they can also pay for one privately. Although no-one is legally entitled to a second opinion, they are rarely refused.

At one of our Patient Forums, a Consultant was asked about second opinions and he said that he was happy for his patients to seek a second opinion but he hoped that this would be from someone whose opinion he would respect.

There may be various reasons for seeking a second opinion but often it is when a patient wishes to consult an ALK+ expert as to whether there could be another approach to their treatment.

CRUK have useful guidance on obtaining a second opinion at

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancer-in-general/treatment/access-to-treatment/different-doctor-second-opinion>

What help we can offer

The Charity will support people who wish to have a second opinion. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this and consider a Centre of Excellence closest to where you live.

Whilst a NHS second opinion is free to patients, travelling costs for two people may be a deterrent for some. We will, therefore, where there is financial hardship, pay all travelling costs for a patient and companion to attend for a second opinion.

What help the USA-based ALK Positive Inc can offer

The USA-based Group operates a second opinion programme which is available to all their members world-wide. Many of our members are also members of this group. The USA group have a panel of ALK+ experts who will provide second opinions but, currently, only one, Dr Ross Camidge, will do so remotely. The cost would be about £750. This cost will be paid by the USA group if a patient cannot afford to pay or couldn't raise the money.

Patients need to be aware that the UK and the USA have very different health systems and a treatment that might be recommended by a USA consultant might not be available in the UK, either on the NHS or privately. Nevertheless, we are aware of a small number of UK patients have felt it worth themselves paying for a second opinion from Dr Camidge.