

# FAQs

## Catalogue of Requirements for the Lung Cancer Centres

of the German Cancer Society (*Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft - DKG*)

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Within the framework of the certification procedure, questions regularly crop up which require an explanation of the Technical and Medical Requirements. This document contains answers to the questions which the centres can refer to when implementing, and the experts can refer to when assessing the Technical and Medical Requirements.

### **Version FAQ and Catalogue of Requirements (CR)**

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The FAQs listed in this document are continuously checked to ensure that they are up to date and adapted in the event of changes to the Technical and Medical Requirements.

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**Overview of FAQs**

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**1.1 Structure of the network**

Section	Requirements	Explanatory remarks of the Lung Cancer Centre
1.1.1i	<p>Precondition for multi-location cooperation models:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 1x/month a joint tumour board (TB). In the other weeks, site-specific TB, in which all requirements for the TB must be fulfilled (= among other things, all main treatment partners present according to CoR 1.2).</li> <li>• The technical requirements and performance indicators must be fulfilled and demonstrated individually for each site.</li> <li>• When individual services are centralized at one or more clinical sites, the capacity of the site to supply the other sites (including sufficient equipment and personnel resources) must be demonstrated.</li> <li>• Common tumour documentation system</li> <li>• Patients must be fully documented at the site or assigned to the site responsible for presentation at the tumour board.</li> <li>• Prior structural evaluation is required by the Certificate award Committee before the certificate is issued.</li> </ul>	<p><u>FAQ (13.05 2022):</u>  How should the following case be counted? Site A has a thoracic surgery and a pneumology department, site B only a pneumology department. The case is diagnosed at site B and brought to the joint tumour board, then operated on at site A. Follow-up care/chemotherapy takes place at site B again. Follow-up care/chemotherapy is again provided at site B. Is the case assigned to site A or site B?</p> <p>Answer:  It is assigned to site B, but the surgery can be counted for site A's surgical expertise.</p>

**1.2 Interdisciplinary cooperation**

Section	Requirements		
1.2.1 a	<p>The Lung Cancer Centre must treat at least 200 patients a year with a primary diagnosis of "lung cancer" in their own Centre.</p> <p>Definition primary case of the Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All patients with newly diagnosed or not yet pre-treated/treated lung cancer, who are presented to the Centre or the tumour board, and receive large parts of their treatment there.</li> <li>• Patient can only be counted as a primary case for 1 Centre; pretreated patients or patients seeking a second opinion are not counted</li> <li>• Patients (not stays, not surgery)</li> <li>• Complete recording in the tumour documentation system</li> <li>• Pathology report must be available (ICD, C34.0-34.9)</li> <li>• The time of counting is the time of the pathological confirmation of diagnosis</li> <li>• Patients with no pathological confirmation of diagnosis may be counted if (all of the following apply): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Solitary pulmonary nodule, suspected malignoma</li> <li>○ FDG-PET positive</li> <li>○ Documented size progression over course of time (at least 8 weeks)</li> <li>○ High risk for patients through pathological confirmation</li> <li>○ Presentation tumour board and indication radiotherapy without pathological confirmation</li> <li>○ Time of counting is date of presentation tumour board</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A primary case with synchronous treatment of bronchial carcinomas</li> <li>• Two primary cases with metachronous treatment of bronchial carcinomas</li> <li>• Synchronous tumour in another tumour entity can be counted as a primary case for each tumour entity</li> </ul>	<p>Details in the Indicator Sheet: Basic data / Indicator 1 (Excel template)</p> <p><u>FAQ (14.07.2016):</u>  In the explanatory remarks it is stated that here all primary cases of the Centre diagnosed for the first time and operated on during the data year can be counted. But what about the overlaps, i.e. the patients who are diagnosed at the end of December of one year and are operated on in January or later?</p> <p>Answer:  The time of counting is the date of the first diagnosis even if the surgery is carried out the following calendar year.</p> <p><u>FAQ (14.07.2016):</u>  Do patients who die early with a confirmed pathological diagnosis but before the commencement of specific treatment count as primary cases?</p> <p>Answer:  Best supportive care also counts as treatment.</p> <p><u>FAQ (13.07.2021)</u>  Is the following case 1 primary case or 2 primary cases? At the initial diagnosis, 2 tumour foci are present in the right and left lung. First, a tumour resection is carried out on the left and at a later date the resection of the right tumour focus.</p> <p>Answer:  Both tumour sites are discovered at the same time when lung carcinoma is diagnosed, so the therapy is also planned and carried out taking both tumour sites into account. This is more a two-stage intervention than a metachronous treatment. In this respect, only 1 primary case would have to be counted here.</p> <p><u>FAQ (13.07.2021)</u>  If one lung focus is discovered on the opposite side, e.g. 3 months after resection of the first lung focus, and this is then treated, can both focuses be counted as independent primary cases?</p>	

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		<p>Answer:  In this case, only 1 pulmonary focus was initially discovered and treated under this premise, then at a later time another round focus is discovered in the other lung and then treated again. Thus, 2 primary cases can be counted. In the case of metachronous treatment of 2 bronchial carcinomas on the same side, only 1 primary case can be counted.</p>	
	<p>Therapy discontinuations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be counted in the case of first treatment as a primary case.</li> <li>• Are to be entered in the tumour documentation system.</li> <li>• Number of patients is to be indicated.</li> <li>• Not included when the patient has switched to another Centre after diagnosis or before the commencement of treatment</li> </ul>	<p><u>FAQ (14.07.2016):</u>  What is the definition of "discontinuation of therapy"?</p> <p>Answer:  When the originally planned treatment is not carried<sup>1)</sup> out in full. See spreadsheet of the Working Group of German Cancer Centres (<i>Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Tumorzentren e.V. - ADT</i>): field discontinuation</p> <p><sup>1)</sup> Must be defined by service provider.</p>	
1.2.3 b	<p>Participants tumour board  The main treatment partners (Section 1.1.1.) attend each tumour board. Participation must be proven, for instance in a list of participants. If several cooperation partners are named for a specialist area, the presence of one representative is sufficient if a regulated exchange of information is established between them (e.g. via quality circles). Each cooperation partner must attend the tumour board at least once a month, regardless of the above.</p> <p>Palliative physicians should regularly attend the tumour board.  In line with needs, associated specialty units (e.g. psycho-oncology, nursing care) and other specialties (neurology, neurosurgery, surgery, pain therapy, orthopaedics, etc.) are to be included in the tumour board.</p>	<p><u>FAQ (14.05.2024)</u>  Is it mandatory for nuclear medicine specialists to attend the weekly tumour board?</p> <p>Answer:  No. The presence of a nuclear medicine physician is to be made possible if necessary (<del>e.g. need to discuss lung scintigraphy</del>).</p>	
1.2.6 b	<p>Indication conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In centres with &gt;500 primary cases, the pre-therapeutic tumour board can be conducted as an indication conference.</li> <li>• Participants: Pneumology/haemato-oncology; thoracic surgery, radiology. Optional: radiotherapist</li> </ul>	<p><u>FAQ (14.07.2016):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Patients with stage IV must be presented at the pre-therapeutic tumour board</li> <li>- Patients with stage I can be prepared as a working document for the tumour board</li> </ul>	

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1.2.12	<p>For patients with advanced cancer who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have completed the guideline-based therapy and</li> <li>• who, according to the clinical parameters, are able to receive a molecular-based therapy and</li> <li>• who, in principle, agree to possible therapy based on the molecular findings,</li> </ul> <p>a presentation at a centre for personalised medicine should be sought.  A prerequisite is the existence of a tumour board decision from an organ-specific centre. The MTB recommendation is provided to the referring centre.</p> <p>For the group of patients with foreseeable limited life expectancy, a written, structured concept of care and communication should be developed at the centre and presented at the audit.</p> <p>Taking into account the chapter Advanced Care Planning of the S3-GL Lung or Palliative.</p> <p>(Groups with foreseeably limited life expectancy: among others M1-patients SCLC/NSCLC without treatable molecular alteration and progression after failure of the first line of system therapy)</p>	<p><u>FAQ (14.05.2024)</u></p> <p>Do all the criteria for the definition of the patient collective have to be met?</p> <p>Answer:  Yes, all bullet points must be met.</p>	
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**1.4 Psycho-oncology**

Section	Requirements	Explanatory remarks of the Lung Cancer Centre
1.4.2	<p>Psycho-oncology - Offer and access  Each patient must be promptly offered a psycho-oncological consultation in the vicinity (proof required). The offer must be made in a low-threshold manner.</p> <p>Documentation and evaluation  To identify treatment needs, screening of mental strain must be undertaken (see indicator “psycho-oncological distress-screening”), and the result is to be documented. The proportion of patients with excessive stress in the distress screening should be presented.</p> <p>Scope of treatment  Psycho-oncological care, in particular for patients with excessive stress in the distress screening, must be presented.</p>	<p><u>FAQ (21.07.2016):</u>  Can the establishment of contact <i>in situ</i> replace screening?</p> <p>Answer:  No. To identify treatment needs it is necessary to conduct <b>standardised</b> screening for mental strain (see S3 Guidelines Psycho-Oncology: e.g. distress thermometer (DT) or the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale - HADS), and to document the result.</p> <p><u>FAQ (28.08.2023)</u>  How should the proportion of patients with excessive distress in distress screening and further psycho-oncological care be presented?</p> <p>Answer:  The number of screened patients who have shown an excessive test should be described.</p> <p>The processes of psycho-oncological care should be described; the number of counselling sessions carried out should be recorded.</p> <p>See separate FAQ document on Distress Screening.</p>

### 1.5 Social work and rehabilitation

Section	Requirements	Explanatory remarks of the Lung Cancer Centre
1.5.1	<p>Qualifications social work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social workers/social pedagogues</li> <li>• Individual case examinations according to the specifications of the professional society are possible</li> </ul> <p>Resources:  For patient counselling in the Centre at least 1 full-time staff member is available for 400 counselled patients (not cases) of the Centre (primary cases, secondary metastasis, recurrence). The personnel resources can be grouped centrally, an organisation plan must be available.</p> <p>Premises:  A suitable room is to be provided for social counselling work.</p> <p>Organisation plan:  The performance of tasks is to be laid down in an organisation plan that contains details, inter alia, of the availability of resources and local presence.</p>	<p><u>FAQ (13.07.2018)</u>  How are the required personnel resources to be calculated/proved?</p> <p>Answer:  The personnel resources are to be calculated based on the patients actually consulted at the centre. The basis for calculation is the numerator of the key figure no. 5, counselling social service (patients who were counseled by the social service on an inpatient or outpatient basis - related to the patient collective defined in the denominator of the key figure). One Patient who received counselling more than once is counted only once.</p>

### 1.6 Patient involvement

Section	Requirements	Explanatory remarks of the Lung Cancer Centre
1.6.6	<p>Event for patients  The Centre is to stage an information event for patients and/or interested persons at least once a year. If possible, in cooperation with self-help groups</p> <p>If patient events are (co-)financed by industry, this fact, including potential conflicts of interest of the lecturers, must be disclosed. The centre must exclude any direct influence on patients by industry representatives.</p>	<p><u>FAQ (21.07.2022)</u>  How can the Lung Cancer Centre prove the exclusion of direct influence by industry representatives?</p> <p>Answer:  Evidence can be provided, for example, via internal compliance rules or, alternatively, via a self-disclosure by the Lung Cancer Centre. In this, the Lung Cancer Centre should provide information on free access to the event, excluding the industry exhibition/information stands, and information on contact between industry representatives and patents</p>

## 1.7 Study management

Section	Requirements	Explanatory remarks of the Lung Cancer Centre	
1.7.5 b	<p>All patients with lung cancer included in studies can be taken into account when calculating the study rate (share study patients based on the Centre's primary case number).  Only the inclusion of patients in studies for which a valid ethical vote is available counts as study participation.  Inclusion in studies whose sole objective is to collect material (biobanking) does not count.</p> <p>General preconditions for the definition of the study quota:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients can be counted once per study, time: date of patient consent.</li> <li>• Study patients can be counted for 2 centres, provided that the sending centre itself conducts at least one study for patients of the haematological neoplasms centre. If this counting method is chosen (optional), the centre must show how many patients are included in studies at their own centre, sent to other centres/clinics to participate in studies and taken from other centres/clinics to participate in studies – see also Excel template data sheet.</li> <li>• Patients in the palliative and adjuvant situation can be counted, no limitations regarding stage of disease.</li> <li>• Patients who are taking part in several studies can be counted several times.</li> </ul>	<p><u>FAQ (24.06.2020)</u>  Which studies may be counted?</p> <p>Answer:  Studies with an ethical vote in which centre patents were introduced in the audit-relevant calendar year are counted. Studies whose sole aim is the <u>collection</u> of material (biobanking) are excluded. However, interventional and observational studies with a concrete research question, such as the CRISP study, are eligible.</p> <p><u>FAQ (10.02.2022)</u>  Can negatively screened study patients be counted?</p> <p>Answer:  Patients who have signed a informed consent form for screening for study participation can be counted for the numerator of the respective study indicator, even if the results of screening examinations carried out with special diagnostics (no routine diagnostics) do not allow the patients to participate in the study.</p> <p><u>FAQ (28.08.2023)</u>  Can patients referred to a Centre for Personalised Medicine (CPM) for the purpose of complex diagnostics, interdisciplinary consultation and individual therapy recommendations who participate in a study there be counted towards the study quota of the sending centre?</p> <p>Answer:  Yes, in this case the study inclusion can be counted by both the sending centre and the CPM. The other requirements for study inclusion according to the survey form will apply.</p>	

## 2.2 Diagnostic

Section	Requirements	Explanatory remarks of the Lung Cancer Centre
2.2.3 f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transbronchial lung biopsies (1430.2)</li> </ul>	<p><u>FAQ (05.08.2019)</u>  Can the transoesophageal lung biopsies also be counted here?</p> <p>Answer:  Yes, the transoesophageal lung biopsies may be counted.</p>

## 6.2 Medical Oncology

Section	Requirements	Explanatory remarks of the Lung Cancer Centre
6.2.4a	<p>Qualification of the respective treatment unit (clinical department or practice-based physicians)</p> <p>a) 150 drug therapies for tumours (cytostatic therapies and/or targeted therapeutics and/or AB/immune therapies, no hormone therapies) a year with lung cancer patients or</p> <p>b) 50 drug therapies for tumours (cytostatic therapies and/or targeted therapeutics and/or AB/immune therapies, no hormone therapies) a year for primary cases of the Centre</p> <p>or</p> <p>200 drug therapies for tumours (cytostatic therapies and/or targeted therapeutics and/or AB/immune therapies, no hormone therapies) in total (various tumour entities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counting method: completed systemic/cytostatic/ targeted therapy per patient (consisting of <b>several</b> cycles or applications, combination therapies count as 1 therapy). In the case of multi-year therapies, the therapy started in the year of the collection of data counts. 1 therapy per patient = 1 therapy line per disease per patient</li> <li>If the value falls below this level, expertise cannot be proven through cooperation (to be demonstrated individually by each treatment unit).</li> </ul>	<p><u>FAQ (28.06.2024)</u>  How is the method of payment for a 'completed systemic/cytostatic/targeted therapy' defined?</p> <p>Answer:  'Completed' also includes the start of therapy, e.g. if this is continued in the outpatient clinic or in the outpatient clinic of a co-operation partner.</p>

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**10 Tumour documentation/Outcome quality**

Section	Requirements	Explanatory remarks of the Lung Cancer Centre	
10.4.	Cooperation with cancer registries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperation with the competent 65c-cancer registry is to be documented in a cooperation agreement (<a href="http://www.tumorzentren.de">www.tumorzentren.de</a>).</li> <li>(...)</li> </ul>	<u>FAQ (14.05.2024)</u> Must the Association of German Tumour Centres (ADT) model cooperation agreement be used?  Answer: The use of the cooperation agreement is not mandatory.	

**FAQs - Indicator Sheet - Lungs**

----	Basic data	Columns B - J	UICC / TNM (pre-/post-therapeutic tumour status)	<u>FAQ (12.09.2017)</u> Is it correct that patients with ypT0 cannot be included in the basic data or should these patients be mapped with the pre-therapeutic tumour status?  Answer: after neoadjuvant and surgical therapy: always indicate cT.  <u>FAQ (12.09.2017)</u> What should be done if the stage changes? E.g. initial stage III, postoperative stage IA, adjuvant therapy, final stage 0?  Answer: After neoadjuvant therapy +/- surgery: c-stage After surgery alone: p-stage  <u>FAQ (13.05.2022)</u> Do neuroendocrine tumours of the lung count as primary cases?  Answer: Yes
1b	Patients with recent recurrence and/or distant metastases	Numerator	Patients with recent recurrence and/or distant metastases (for definition see CR LC 1.2.6.a)	<u>FAQ (02.08.2021)</u> Which patients are included in the requirement 1b and in the denominator of the requirement 2b?  Answer: Patients with curative anatomical R0 resection or stereotactic radiotherapy who develop a locoregional recurrence are counted as "recurrence". Patients classified as having a "new distant metastasis" are those with an initial stage I-III and a first distant metastasis.
		Target value	No target value	

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2b	Presentation of new recurrences and/or distant metastasis in the tumour board	Numerator	Patients of the denominator who were presented in the tumour board	<p><u>FAQ (14.07.2016):</u> Do patients who were treated curatively in the ED but then receive palliative treatment during the course of the disease and develop a metastasis/recurrence in the indicator year have to be counted for this indicator?</p> <p>Answer: Yes. These patients must be presented (for the indicator) at the transition from curative to palliative, i.e. at the first palliative therapy.</p> <p><u>FAQ (13.07.2018)</u> What is the key figure target?</p> <p>Answer: Patients with a new recurrence or distant metastasis are only to be discussed pre-therapeutically in the tumour board if they present for treatment at the centre. Patients who are treated close to home outside the centre structure are not covered by this regulation.</p> <p><u>FAQ (01.09.2025)</u> Which patients are included in requirement 1b and in the denominator of requirement 2b?</p> <p>Answer: Patients with curative anatomical R0 resection or stereotactic radiotherapy and a locoregional recurrence are counted as "recurrence". Patients classified as having a "new distant metastasis" are those with an initial stage I–III and a first distant metastasis.</p>
		Denominator	Patients with new recurrence and/or distant metastases after prior curative treatment (for definition see CR LC 1.2.6.a) (= indicator 1b)	
		Target value	≥ 90%	
4	Duration of final tumour board decision until start of therapy	Numerator	Primary cases of the denominator with time span ≤ 14d between tumour board decision and start of therapy	<p><u>FAQ (14.05.2024)</u> What type of therapy is meant here?</p> <p>Answer: All primary cases (stage I-III) are included in the denominator - regardless of the intervention and modality of the therapy.</p>
		Denominator	Primary cases NSCLC stage I-III with final, pretherapeutic tumour board recommendation for therapy	

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		Target value	No target value	
8a	Flexible bronchoscopy	Numerator	Flexible bronchoscopies for each service provider	<p><u>FAQ (13.05.2022)</u>  Are all patients counted who had a flexible bronchoscopy? That is, regardless of whether a C34 diagnosis is given or not?</p> <p>Answer:  Yes.</p>
9	Interventional bronchoscopic procedures for tumour occlusion or stenoses	Numerator	Interventional bronchoscopic procedures for tumour occlusion or stenosis (thermal procedures and stent insertion) per service provider (OPS: 5-319.14, 5-319.15, 5-320.0)	<p><u>FAQ (14 July 2016):</u>  May cryo-therapies (tumour removal with a cryoprobe) also be included in interventional bronchoscopy?</p> <p>Answer:  Yes, but not cryo-<u>biopsies</u> as they are not interventional procedures.</p>
		Denominator	---	
		Target value	≥ 10	
11b	Lung resections	Numerator	Surgical expertise Number anatomical resections (OPS: 5-323 to 5-328, for ICD-10 C34.0-.9, C78.0)	<p><u>FAQ (12.09.2017)</u>  What exactly is the new counting method for anatomical resections?</p> <p>Answer:  A minimum of 75 anatomical lung resections must still be demonstrated, but no longer exclusively for primary cases with bronchial carcinoma (ICD-10 C.34), but for all patients with C diagnoses. The aim of the modified requirement is that clinics which have just not reached the previous target of 75 primary cases operated on with anatomical lung resection can also undergo certification/quality assurance in future.</p>
		Target value	≥ 75	
12	Ratio of broncho-/angioplasty surgeries to pneumonectomie	Numerator	Primary cases of denominator with broncho-/angioplasty surgeries	<p><u>FAQ (13.05.2022)</u>  Can primary cases that had broncho-angioplasty followed by pneumonectomy be counted in the denominator?</p>
		Denominator	Primary cases with pneumonectomies and primary cases with broncho-/angioplasty surgeries.	

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		Target value	No target value	Answer No, these cannot be counted. If a broncho-angioplasty operation is followed by a salvage pneumonectomy due to residual tumour or a complication, the primary cases are not counted in the denominator. Primary cases
19	Stereotactic radiotherapy for inoperability	Numerator	Primary cases of the denominator with stereotactic radiotherapy	<u>FAQ (21.07.2022)</u> What are the requirements for stereotaxy?
		Denominator	Primary cases NSCLC stage IA, IB, IIA with tumour board recommendation against resection	Answer: Based on the consultation version of the GL Lung Cancer (version 2.01, May 2022) and the DEGRO/DGMP position paper (Guckenberger et al., 2020), body stereotactic radiotherapy (SBRT) for the treatment of NSCLC is defined as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percutaneous application of a high radiation dose with high precision</li> <li>• Definition of the target volume by means of imaging control of the tumour's respiratory excursion using breath-triggered 4D CT series in the irradiation position</li> <li>• Application of dose concepts with few (max. 12) fractions with individual doses of at least 5 Gy</li> </ul>
		Target value	No target value	<u>FAQ (06.07.2023)</u> Can stereotactic therapies in functionally inoperable patients without histological confirmation (nevertheless primary case according to definition) be included in the indicators?  Answer: No, stereotactic therapies in functionally inoperable patients without histological confirmation are not recorded. The denominator of this indicator also explicitly states in accordance with quality indicator 11 of the NSCLC guideline, which implies histological confirmation.

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20	Pathology reports	Numerator	Examined malignant lung cases	<p><u>FAQ (13.07.2018)</u>  May biopsies and second assessments also be counted for the proof of pathological assessments?</p> <p>Answer:  Yes, biopsies may be counted. Second assessments may only be counted if they are reference pathologies and not duplicate findings.</p> <p><u>FAQ (13.05.2022)</u>  Do molecular pathology assessments also count towards the ratio?</p> <p>Answer:  No.</p>
			≥ 200 malignant lung cases (for each specialist 100 L.)	
21	Perioperative systemic therapy	Numerator	Primary cases of the denominator with neoadjuvant or perioperative systemic therapy	<p><u>FAQ (24.06.2020)</u>  Can carcinoids also be counted in the denominator?</p> <p>Answer:  No</p>
		Denominator	Primary surgical cases in pre-therapeutic / clinical stage IIB -IIIA	
		Target value	No target value	
29	CTCAE stage V on systemic therapy	Numerator	Primary cases of the denominator with CTCAE stage V on systemic therapy	<p><u>FAQ (13.05.2022)</u>  Does the denominator refer to non-operated primary cases only?</p> <p>Answer:  No. The recording of side effects under system therapy is independent of the therapy position (definitive system therapy, neo-/adjuvant</p>
		Denominator	Primary cases stages III or IV on systemic therapy	
		Target value	No target value	
31	PD-L1 testing for NSCLC in stage III with radiochemotherapy	Numerator	Primary cases of the denominator with PD-L1 testing before starting radiochemotherapy	<p><u>FAQ (22.10.2020)</u>  Is it necessary to wait for the PD-L1 test result before starting radiochemotherapy?</p> <p>Answer:  The start of radiochemotherapy should not be delayed just because the test result is not yet available.</p>
		Denominator	Primary cases with NSCLC stage III with radiochemotherapy	
		Target value	≥ 75%	