

CT LUNG CANCER SCREENING



Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the U.S. because it often goes undetected until it's in advanced stages. In a 2010 study of 53,000 current or former smokers, the National Cancer Institute reported that there were 20% fewer deaths among participants who received regular low-dose CT (LDCT) lung cancer screening exams, compared with standard chest X-rays. As a result of this study, most insurances cover these exams for qualified patients.

PATIENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Note: Criteria as of 2022



IN FEBRUARY 2022, CMS UPDATED ITS NATIONAL COVERAGE DECISION FOR LOW DOSE CANCER SCREENINGS BASED ON US PREVENTIVE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS. PRIVATE INSURERS ARE ALSO UPDATING POLICIES.

REFER A PATIENT

Determine eligibility based on the patient's age, smoking status and smoking history.

For Medicare beneficiaries having a first time screening, counsel the patient on the importance of not smoking, having annual screenings, the impact of comorbidities, and willingness to undergo diagnosis and treatment. A shared decision making visit is reimbursable by using CPT G0296.

If you prefer, our associates can provide the shared decision making visit.

If appropriate, submit an order for a LDCT lung cancer screening exam.

LUNG SCREENING RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A board certified radiologist will read the exam, and write a report based on the findings. The report will include a standardized classification of any nodules found, and recommendations for follow up screenings or diagnostic exams. To get the maximum benefit of early detection, the USPTF recommends annual screenings.

ARE THERE RISKS TO BEING SCREENED?

Some screenings may find other minor abnormalities or false positives. If this is the case, a patient may need further testing or procedures to rule out lung cancer. These tests may require more time and expense. The exam uses very low levels of radiation to capture images. This presents a very small health risk for people older than 50.

RESOURCES FOR PATIENTS WHO WANT TO QUIT SMOKING

The American Cancer Society and American Lung Association offer helpful information for patients interested in quitting smoking. Many local organizations also offer resources.

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