



**CT LUNG CANCER SCREENING  
PHYSICIAN REFERRAL CRITERIA  
(CMS GUIDELINES)**

1. If the patient is a **current** heavy smoker (with  $\geq$  a 30 pack-year\*) whose age is between 55 and 80\*\*.
2. If the patient is a **former** heavy smoker (ages 55-80\*\*) with a  $\geq$  30-pack year\* smoking history who quit **less than 15 years ago**.

\*A pack-year = # packs per day by # years smoked.

\*\*While Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) cover ages **55-77**, major insurance carriers are covering CT lung screenings **up to 80 years of age (Aetna is 79)**. Other criteria include: no signs or symptoms of lung cancer; tobacco smoking history of at least **30 pack-years**; current smoker or one who **has quit smoking less than 15 years ago**.

3. Receives a **written order for CT lung cancer screening** that meets the following criteria:  
*(Medicare only) For the initial CT lung cancer screening service:* a patient must receive a written order for CT lung screening during an independent lung cancer screening **counseling & shared decision making visit (Procedure code G0296. Use with Modifier 25 if on the same day as a Wellness or E/M visit.)**. This is furnished by a physician or other qualified healthcare personnel (Physician Assistant, APRN, or Clinical Nurse Specialist). The visit includes the following elements (and is appropriately documented in the patient's medical records):
  - i. **Determination of patient eligibility** including age, absence of signs/ symptoms of lung cancer, specific calculation of pack-years; and if a former smoker, number of years since quitting;
  - ii. **Shared decision making**, including the use of one or more decision aids, to include benefits and risks of screening, follow-up diagnostic testing, over-diagnosis, false positive rate, and total radiation exposure;
  - iii. **Counseling on the importance of adherence to annual lung cancer CT screening**, impact of comorbidities and ability or willingness to undergo diagnosis and treatment;
  - iv. **Counseling on the importance of maintaining cigarette smoking abstinence** if former smoker; or the importance of smoking cessation if current smoker and, if appropriate, **furnishing of information about tobacco cessation interventions**.
4. Any patient inquiring into a CT lung screening may call 855.34KYONE (59663) for further information.

**Proposed Coding**

ICD-10 Codes: **Z87.891** Personal history-nicotine dependence (*required for Medicare reimbursement*); **F17.210** Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated; **Z72.0** Tobacco use

Procedure: **HCPCS S-8032 (for Medicare: G0297) Low-dose CT for lung cancer screening**

For all the latest CTLS forms, go to:

<http://www.kentuckyonehealth.org/physician-order-ct-lung-screening>