



**LOW-DOSE CT (LDCT) 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) have stated coverage for ages **55-77, major insurance carriers are covering 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 LDCT lung cancer screening** that meets the following criteria:
 - a. For the initial LDCT lung cancer screening service: a patient must receive a written order for LDCT screening during an independent lung cancer screening **counseling and shared decision making** visit (not combined with a Wellness or E/M appointment). This is furnished by a physician or other healthcare personnel (RNs or MAs under the supervision of a physician, PA, APRN, or Clinical Nurse). 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 LDCT 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 other patient inquiring into a low-dose CT lung screening may call 855.34KYONE (855.345.9663) for further information.

Proposed Coding

Diagnosis: ICD-9 Codes: Codes that may apply *for dates of service on or before September 30, 2015*):

V76.0 Special screening/malignant neoplasms/respiratory organs

V15.82 History of tobacco use

Procedure: HCPCS* S-8032 Low-dose computed tomography for lung cancer screening (released 10/1/14).

*HCPCS codes are special codes designed to cover procedures for which no CPT code yet exists.