

## Lung Cancer Screening - Updated Guidelines

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The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Fee-for-Service Program provides coverage for the following screening tests:

- Screen for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography (CT) every year.

### I. Lung Cancer Screening - Coverage Updates

- **Age and clinical criteria:** Coverage will now include high risk patients starting at age 50 until age 80 who have a 20 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years.
- **Changes from previous screening recommendations:** The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) has revised the recommended ages and pack-years for lung cancer screening. It expanded the age range to 50 to 80 years (previously 55 to 80 years) and reduced the pack-year history to 20 pack-years of smoking (previously 30 pack-years).
- **Implementation:** Screen if the person is aged 50 to 80 years and has a 20 pack-year or more smoking history and engage in shared decision making about screening.
  - The decision to undertake screening should involve a discussion of its potential benefits, limitations, and harms.
  - If a person decides to be screened, refer them for lung cancer screening with low-dose CT, ideally to a center with experience and expertise in lung cancer screening.
  - If the person currently smokes, they should receive smoking cessation interventions.

### II. Coverage Limitations and Exclusions

Lung Cancer screening is NO LONGER recommended once a person:

- Reaches the age of 81;
- Has not smoked for 15 years; or
- Has a health problem that limits life expectancy or the ability to have lung surgery.

### III. Supporting Criteria and Organizational References

- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF):
  - <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/lung-cancer-screening>
- American Lung Association:
  - <https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/lung-cancer/saved-by-the-scan/resources>
- American Cancer Society:
  - <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/lung-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/how-diagnosed.html>
- Center for Disease Control (CDC):
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/basic\\_info/screening.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/basic_info/screening.htm)

#### IV. Billing Code/Information

CPT Code 71271 (Computed Tomography, thorax, low dose for lung cancer screening, without contrast materials).

*Prior authorization of benefits is not the practice of medicine nor the substitute for the independent medical judgment of a treating medical provider. The materials provided are a component used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. Prior authorization does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding member eligibility or payment. Prior authorization criteria are established based on a collaborative effort using input from the current medical literature and based on evidence available at the time.*

**Approved by MDH Clinical Criteria Committee: 1/24/2023**

**Last Reviewed Date: 2/3/2023**