



# LUNG CANCER SCREENING: WHY START NOW?

## IT'S A YEARLY CHECK



Lung cancer screening is a regular preventive health check, like a mammogram or a colonoscopy. Lung cancer screening checks your lungs while you are healthy and looks for any changes from year to year. This screening is for patients at high risk. Read below to learn more about who should be screened.

## WHY SCREEN FOR LUNG CANCER?

- A lung cancer screening may find nothing, or it can find something before you have symptoms
- If a lung cancer screening finds something unusual, it is more likely to find it at an early stage. You may have more options when cancer is found at an earlier stage
- A low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scan is recommended as part of a yearly health check for people at high risk for lung cancer



## WHAT HAPPENS DURING A LUNG CANCER SCREENING?



During the screening, an LDCT scan creates a detailed 3-D picture of your lungs. This scan will expose you to a low dose of radiation. LDCT uses 75% less radiation than a traditional CT scan and does not require any needles or medicines.

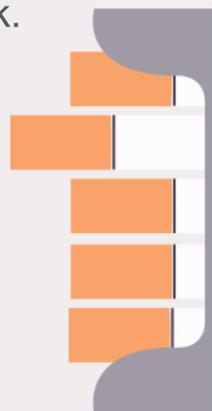
Your doctor may ask for more tests if he or she sees something on the scan. Often, these are false alarms and turn out to be nothing. Most patients who get screened do not have cancer.

**LDCT is recommended for people at high risk for lung cancer, based on a study of over 53,000 patients**

## SHOULD YOU GET SCREENED?

Yearly lung cancer screening is recommended if you are at high risk. You may be at high risk if you meet all of the following criteria:

- Are 55 to 80 years old
- Smoke now, or if you have quit smoking in the past 15 years
- Are a heavy smoker, or you were a heavy smoker



### WHAT IS HEAVY SMOKING?

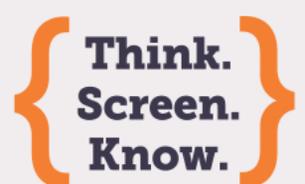
Examples of heavy smoking are

- 1 pack a day for 30 years
- 2 packs a day for 15 years
- 3 packs a day for 7.5 years

## ARE YOU COVERED?

Lung cancer screening is covered by Medicare for patients 55 to 77 years old and by most commercial insurance plans for patients 55 to 80 years old.

**Make the decision together—talk to your healthcare team about the benefits and risks of screening.**



Talk to your patients.  
[www.thinkscreenknow.org](http://www.thinkscreenknow.org)