

Lung Cancer Screening Risk - Benefits Information for Patients

Below is information regarding risks and benefits of having a low-dose computed tomography (CT) lung screening. It may be helpful for you in making a decision as to screening.

- These scans can detect pulmonary nodules which may be an **early sign** of lung cancer.
- An annual screening is recommended in high risk individuals from ages 55 to 80 for most commercial insurances; Medicare is ages 55 to 77.
- This screening will show if a pulmonary nodule is present, but it alone cannot determine if the nodule is malignant or benign. This may require further follow up with a physician. This could be your primary care provider or this service may be provided by our multidisciplinary team.
- **Additional Testing:** detecting a nodule may require more CT scans or surgical procedures for further evaluation. Lung screening may also lead to the detection of other unrelated diseases. This is an additional benefit of low-dose CT scanning for lung cancer; however, it may lead to additional testing, treatment and cost. If you are opposed to these, you should reconsider being screened.
- **False Positive Results:** There is, approximately, a 25% chance that a nodule will be detected on a screening CT scan in a high risk individual. Most nodules are benign.
- **Radiation Exposure:** A low-dose CT scan of the chest will expose you to about the same level of radiation as does a mammogram.
- **Emotional Stress:** Some individuals may experience anxiety from finding a nodule and any associated follow-up.
- You should **follow up with your physician** regarding the results of the screening.
- If you have any concerns or questions regarding lung cancer screening, please be sure to discuss this with your primary care provider.