

HAYWOOD

REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

A Duke LifePoint Hospital

To: All Physician Offices
From: Phillip Wright, CEO
Date: April 17, 2015
Subject: Lung Cancer Screening with Low Dose CT

CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) issued a national coverage decision Feb. 5, 2015 announcing a new benefit of LDCT (low-dose CT) Lung Cancer Screening for certain high risk patients.

Medicare will provide coverage for two components of the lung screening program: *a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision making visit*, and for those patients who meet the designated CMS LDCT screening criteria, annual low dose chest CT. The latter cannot proceed without the former.

CMS Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Age 55 – 77 years;
- Asymptomatic (no signs or symptoms of lung cancer);
- Tobacco smoking history of at least 30 pack-years (one pack-year = smoking one pack per day for one year; 1 pack = 20 cigarettes);
- Current smoker or one who has quit smoking within the last 15 years.

Before undergoing LDCT, your patients must undergo *a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision making visit* (furnished by a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner) which encompasses the following elements (which should be documented in the medical record):

- Determination of beneficiary eligibility including age, absence of signs or symptoms of lung cancer, a specific calculation of cigarette smoking pack-years; and if a former smoker, the number of years since quitting;
- Shared decision making, including the use of one or more decision aids, to include benefits and harms of screening, follow-up diagnostic testing, over-diagnosis, false positive rate, and total radiation exposure;
- Counseling on the importance of adherence to annual lung cancer LDCT screening, impact of comorbidities and ability or willingness to undergo diagnosis and treatment;

- 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;
- If appropriate, the furnishing of a written order for lung cancer screening with LDCT.

We will provide you with a LDCT Lung Screening Order form, which includes patient-specific data elements required by CMS before the CT can be scheduled. Once this form is faxed to Scheduling and reviewed for CMS compliance, we will schedule your patient for the screening CT.

At this time, Medicare has not yet issued the specific CPT code for billing of the LDCT. It has been advised to hold claims for these exams until the final CPT code is issued; accordingly, this facility will hold claims for your patients until such time, and will not bill your CMS-eligible patients.

For your patients who do NOT meet CMS eligibility criteria for LDCT, but nonetheless you believe are at high risk for lung cancer, HRMC is offering LDCT at a reduced Self Pay cost of \$200, which will be collected at the time of service.

We will provide a LDCT Lung Screening FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) form for you and your patient's benefit.

www.shouldiscreen.com may help you and your patients navigate the screening process.

Please call (828)452-8929 or email Johanna.Deweese@haymed.org for questions regarding this new potentially life-saving service.