



**NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL
CANCER INSTITUTE**
LUNG CANCER PROGRAM

Lung Cancer Screening: FAQs for Patients

What screening tests are available to detect lung cancer?

Lung cancer is detected using a screening test called low-dose computer tomography (LDCT). LDCT is a non-invasive, painless procedure that uses low-dose X-rays to screen the lungs for cancer.

Is LDCT lung cancer screening covered by insurance? How much does it cost?

As of January 4, 2016, LDCT lung cancer screenings are now covered by Medicare for eligible patients. Although coverage varies by insurance company, it is worth a phone call to your insurance company to verify whether or not the procedure is covered under your policy.

How is a LDCT lung cancer screening performed?

During the exam, you will lie on your back on an exam table with your arms above your head. You will be required to hold your breath briefly as pictures are being taken. For a short period of time, your body may be covered by a scanner, but the scanner will be open at the back and front so that you can see out. Your technologist will always be able to see and hear you during the five minute procedure.

How accurate is LDCT lung cancer screening?

Recent studies show that LDCT lung cancer screening is more precise than standard screening methods (i.e. chest X-ray, sputum cytology) in detecting lung cancer. Unlike standard chest X-rays, during a LDCT lung cancer screening cross-sectional images are taken of the lungs. This allows the radiologist to see the lungs from every angle.

Does this procedure involve radiation?

LDCT lung cancer screening does involve exposure to radiation in the form of X-rays. However, the benefit of receiving an accurate diagnosis far outweighs the risk.

Am I eligible for a LDCT lung cancer screening?

If you are a current or former smoker, please speak with your physician to discuss the risks and benefits of LDCT lung cancer screening. If you are a Medicare patient, your physician will use the following criteria to determine whether you should be screened. For non-Medicare patients, similar criteria will be used to determine eligibility. **All patients must have a written order from a physician to receive a LDCT lung cancer screening.**

Eligibility Criteria

Age	55 – 77 years
Symptoms	Asymptomatic (no signs or symptoms of lung cancer)
Smoking History	Current smoker or one who has quit within the last 15 years with a 30+ pack year smoking history (a pack a day for 30 years or more)
Screening Duration	Screening should be discontinued once a person has not smoked for 15 years
Risks/Benefits Discussion	A discussion between the patient and provider on screening risks and benefits is required to determine eligibility and to receive a LDCT lung cancer screening

Who will notify me of my results? When will my results be available?

If your LDCT lung cancer screening was ordered by your physician, he/she will be responsible for providing you with the results. If the test is ordered by one of our Northside Hospital physicians, you should expect someone to contact you within seven business days.

What if something is found on my scan?

Your case will be reviewed by the physicians and providers on our Lung Cancer Screening Team. We will then provide recommendations to you and your primary care physician on how to proceed based upon nationally accepted guidelines.

Will I get a copy of my scan?

You and your referring physician will be provided with a copy of the results of your LDCT lung cancer screening.

My friend was told after a LDCT scan that she had a pulmonary nodule.

Is a pulmonary nodule lung cancer?

The most common finding (55 – 56%) during LDCT scans of the lungs is a pulmonary nodule. A pulmonary nodule is a round or oval spot (lesion) in the lungs that can be seen using a chest X-ray or LDCT scan. The finding of a pulmonary nodule does not necessarily indicate lung cancer. In fact, less than 3% of patients with a pulmonary nodule will be found to have lung cancer. After our Lung Cancer Screening Team reviews your LDCT scan, we will then provide recommendations for next steps moving forward.

How can I quit smoking?

The best way to prevent lung cancer is to stop smoking! Northside Hospital offers a program to help individuals quit smoking and using tobacco products. For more information, call 404-780-7653 or email smokingcessation@northside.com.

Who can I call if I have additional questions or concerns?

Northside Hospital offers a dedicated nurse navigator for our Lung Cancer Screening Program. If you have additional questions regarding LDCT lung cancer screening or your individual scans, please call the **screening nurse navigator** directly at 404.300.2800.



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