Subject: Lung Cancer Screening by Low dose Computerized Tomography (LDCT)

Effective Date: October 28, 2003

Department: Utilization Management

Policy: Screening Chest CT, also known as low-dose CT scanning, as a screening test for lung cancer, is not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to limit application of LDCT lung cancer screening to the population in which efficacy is supported by peer-reviewed literature.

Procedure: Annual LDCT for lung cancer screening [CPT 71250] is reimbursable for members who meet the following criteria:

A. Age 55 to 80 years.

and

B. Current or former smoker (must have quit within the last 15 years) with a \( \geq 30 \) pack -year history of smoking.[ICD-9 codes V15.82, V76.0. ICD-10 codes Z12.2, Z72.0]
C. LDCT for lung cancer screening for individuals not meeting the above criteria is considered investigational due lack of documented efficacy in the peer reviewed medical literature

Note: If there is a symptom or physical finding referable to the respiratory system, such as cough or shortness-of-breath, an environmental exposure (including but not limited to asbestos) or if there is an abnormality on a plain chest x-ray, a requested chest CT scan will not be considered a screening study and this policy will not apply.

References

National Comprehensive Cancer Network(NCCN) Guidelines Version 1.2014 Lung Cancer Screening, accessed online 01/14/14 at NCCN.org

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement-Screening for Lung Cancer, accessed online 01/14/14 at uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org[initially published in Annals of Internal Medicine on 12/31/13]


Marcus P. Lung Cancer Screening, Once Again. *Chest* 2002;122(1):3-4 (Jul)


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*Consistent with Summary Plan Description ( SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.