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 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; HCPCS S8032] 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] and

Are asymptomatic (no cough, weight loss).
OR

C. Age ≥50yrs with ≥20 pack-year history of smoking and one additional risk factor:

- Documented sustained and substantially elevated residential radon exposure
- Occupational lung-targeting carcinogens-asbestos,arsenic,beryllium,cadmium, chromium, coal smoke, diesel fumes, nickel, silica and soot.
- Personal history of lung cancer, lymphoma, head and neck cancer or other smoking related cancer.
- Family history of lung cancer in a first-degree relative
- Personal history of lung disease- COPD or pulmonary fibrosis.

And is asymptomatic (no cough, weight loss).

NOTE: second-hand smoke exposure is not independently considered a risk factor for lung cancer screening.

D. 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)


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