



GRAND TRAVERSE
RADIOLOGISTS

Your Imaging Experts

Low Dose CT for Lung Cancer Screening now Available at Accredited Sites

Volume 15, Issue CT01, June 2015

The radiology departments and Grand Traverse Radiologists, PC are pleased to announce designation as lung cancer screening centers for Munson Medical Center, Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital, Kalkaska Memorial



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Health Center, and Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital. Computed tomography (CT) scanners at all of these sites have received accreditation by the American College of Radiology (ACR) and have further been designated as lung cancer screening sites by the ACR. The radiology

department at Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital is in the process of pursuing this accreditation and designation. We are delighted to offer this program for the benefit of practitioners and patients throughout northern Michigan.

Benefits of Low Dose CT for Lung Cancer Screening

Benefits of low dose lung cancer screening CT include:

- Early detection which can positively impact treatment options and ultimately outcomes
- Patient friendly, non-invasive study which has no known side effects and does not require long breath holds
- Low dose CT scans produce sufficient image quality for detection using less ionizing radiation to do so
- This screening technique has been proven to reduce the number of deaths from lung cancer in patients at high risk

Thoracic CT is the only test that has been demonstrated to reduce mortality from lung cancer in high risk current and former cigarette smokers. In August, 2011, the National Cancer Institute released results from its National Lung Screening Trial (NLST). This was a large randomized clinical trial which demonstrated a 20% reduction in lung cancer mortality with CT compared to chest x-rays alone.

Before participating, all patients should consult a health care provider about the risks and benefits of screening. Smoking cessation remains the best preventative measure and patients undergoing screening who still smoke will

be provided with smoking cessation resources.

Screening Coverage

Medicare beneficiaries

In February, 2015, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a National Coverage Determination (NCD) that provides Medicare coverage of one low dose lung cancer screening CT per year for Medicare beneficiaries who meet very specific criteria:

1. They are age 55-77 and are either current smokers or have quit smoking in the last 15 years.
2. They have a tobacco smoking history of at least 30 “pack years”, an average of one pack a day for 30 years (1).
3. They receive a written order from a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner that meets certain requirements.

“This is the first time that Medicare has covered lung cancer screening. This is an important new Medicare preventive benefit since lung cancer is the third most common cancer and the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States,” said Dr. Patrick Conway, chief medical officer and deputy administrator for innovation and quality for CMS.

For more information regarding Medicare coverage of screening for lung cancer with low dose CT, please visit:

www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Press-releases/2015-Press-releases-items/2015-02-05

Screening is intended for asymptomatic individuals who meet the above criteria.

Other insurance coverage

Those who are not Medicare beneficiaries should check with their health insurance carrier regarding specific coverage and criteria for having a low dose lung cancer screening CT. Patients without lung cancer screening coverage should contact the facility for more information.

Technique

The technique in lung cancer screening CT is different than routine chest CT. No intravenous contrast is utilized and ultra low dose techniques are used to optimize nodule detection and minimize radiation exposure. This low dose technique provides only limited evaluation of other chest anatomy.

No imaging test is perfect and false positive and false negative results and morbidity from subsequent evaluation and biopsy does occur. In addition, not all cancers detected by low dose CT will be found in the early stages of the disease. Patients may undergo annual screening CT for decades and the risk of radiation exposure should be balanced with the benefit of early cancer detection.

Results

Reporting and follow up recommendations are standardized and will be applied uniformly utilizing specialized Lung-RADS™ nomenclature (2). An American College of Radiology (ACR) registry is being developed for rigorous ongoing evaluation of results and quality in which Grand Traverse Radiologists, PC will participate.

How to schedule a screening

Low dose lung cancer screening CT is available now and can be scheduled by contacting radiology scheduling as listed below.

- Munson Medical Center 231-935-6412 or 231-935-5627
- Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital 231-876-7260
- Kalkaska Memorial Health Center 231-258-7533
- Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital 231-352-2260

Patients will be evaluated prior to scheduling to determine coverage status and to ensure, when applicable, they meet any specific insurance carrier criteria as referenced above.

For more information

Please feel free to contact Dr. C. Paul Williams or Dr. Patrick Gartland with any questions by contacting 231-935-7029.

For more information about Lung Cancer Screening, please visit:

www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=screening-lung

(1) Pack year calculations:

Pack years = average # of packs per day X # of years smoked

1 pack/day X 30 years = 30 pack years

1.5 packs/day X 20 years = 30 pack years

(2) Lung CT Screening Reporting and Data System.

www.acr.org/Quality-Safety/Resources/LungRADS

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