## Is This Covered by Insurance?

Medicare and most insurance companies cover the cost of lung cancer screenings as it is considered a preventative medicine for individuals meeting screening criteria. Always check with your insurance company prior to your screening.

## How Can the Risk of Lung Cancer be Reduced?

The best way to reduce the risk of lung cancer is to quit smoking. Quitting smoking lowers your risk of getting lung cancer and other diseases of the lungs, heart, blood, and brain. If you smoke, talk to your doctor about guitting.

You can get free help quitting at:

www.smokefree.gov www.cancer.org www.lung.org

Please call us today to schedule your appointment!

### CLINIC LOCATIONS

1236 E. Rusholme Street Davenport, Iowa 52803 (563) 324-2992

1100 36th Avenue Moline, Illinois 61265 (309) 743-6700

**CVMEDPC.COM** 



#### **OUR MISSION**

Cardiovascular Medicine PLLC will provide Compassionate, Comprehensive, Cardiovascular Care.





Are you at risk for lung cancer?

Early Detection with Low Dose Lung Cancer Screening Could Save Your Life! Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for both men and women in the United States, causing more deaths than breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers combined. It is estimated that over 80 percent of lung cancers could be cured if detected at an early stage.

Low dose lung CT scans may be recommended as a screening test for lung cancer. A low dose lung CT scan examines the structures inside the chest using X-ray transmissions that are converted to detailed images.

#### What is Screening?

Screening is looking for cancer before symptoms occur. This is helpful in finding cancer at an early stage. When abnormal tissue or cancer is found early, it may be easier to treat.

### Why is Screening Done for Lung Cancer?

Lung cancer is often not detected until it is advanced and a cure is no longer possible. The only way to detect lung cancer in its earliest stages is through the use of a low-dose CT scan. Clinical trials have shown the likelihood of surviving lung cancer is improved with screening. Thus, it is recommended that people who are at risk receive this screening.

#### What is CT Screening?

Computerized tomography (CT) screening uses special X-Ray technology to obtain image data from different angles around the body and then uses computer procession for the information to show a cross section of body tissues and organs.

# How Effective Is LDCT Lung Screening at Preventing Death from Lung Cancer?

Studies have shown that LDCT lung cancer screening can lower the risk of death from lung cancer by 20 percent in people who are at high risk.

## Is There Exposure to Radiation with a Low Dose Lung CT Scan?

Yes, a very small amount. Less than 3mGy for the average size person; a little more radiation than a Chest X-Ray but less than a routine CT Chest scan. However, the benefits of an accurate and early diagnosis of lung cancer far outweigh the risk.

#### **How is the Exam Performed?**

A low dose spiral CT scan uses a large machine that is shaped like a doughnut with a table that you lie on. The table can slide backwards and forwards through the hole of the doughnut. You will hold your breath for a few seconds while pictures of your lungs are taken. The procedure does not use contrast dye, so it is non-invasive, painless, and typically takes less than a couple minutes.

#### **Screening Criteria:**

LDCT lung screening is recommended for the following group of people who are at high risk for lung cancer:

- You are between 50 and 77 years old
- Have no signs or symptoms
- Are currently a smoker or have quit within the past 15 years
- Have smoked at least a pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years

Pack years is calculated by multiplying the number of packs you smoke a day by the number of years that you smoked. For example, smoking 1 pack a day for 20 years is a 20 pack year.

If you don't meet these requirements, but your doctor thinks you should still have a scan, they can order a routine CT Chest with IV contrast. Your physician will make the best decision for you.

