This decision aid is to help you think about the pros and cons of lung cancer screening, so you can make the right choice for you.

- Lung cancer can occur without symptoms in the early stages and it can grow quickly.
- The goal of lung cancer screening is to find lung cancer early, so that it can be treated and cured.
- Screening for lung cancer uses a low-dose CT or CAT scan to take pictures of your lungs. It takes about 10 minutes, it is painless, and you keep your clothes on during the process.

### Am I Eligible for Lung Cancer Screening?

To be eligible you must meet all of the following:

1. You are 55 – 77 years old
2. You smoked at least 1 pack per day for a total of 30 or more years, or 2 packs per day for a total of 15 years (1 pack = 20 cigarettes)
3. You currently smoke or quit less than 15 years ago
4. You do not have symptoms of lung cancer (coughing up blood, unexplained weight loss - people with these symptoms need different testing)

### What is My Risk of Having Lung Cancer?

- **Patient 1**: I am 70 years old, smoked 1 pack per day for 15 years, and quit 30 years ago.
  - Low Risk: Patient 1 would not likely benefit from screening

- **Patient 2**: I am 70 years old, smoked 1 pack per day for 30 years, and quit 10 years ago; no symptoms.
  - Patient 2 should consider a conversation with a doctor about screening

- **Patient 3**: I am 70 years old, smoked 1 pack per day for 40 years, and currently smoke; no symptoms.
  - Patient 3 should prioritize a conversation with a doctor about screening

**Free online risk calculator:** [https://shouldiscreen.com](https://shouldiscreen.com)

What Are the Pros and Cons of Screening?

Pros

While this can be stressful to think about, finding lung cancer early can reduce the risk of dying.

Screening can give you peace of mind

Screening is painless and requires no preparation

A low-dose screen uses more radiation than a chest x-ray, but less than a normal CT scan.

Cons

Screening sometimes finds things that look like cancer, but are not. This is called a false positive. Getting a false positive test can cause you to worry unnecessarily. Out of 100 people, about 40 will have a positive CT scan. Of those 40, about 5 actually have lung cancer.

More procedures might be needed to see if a positive result is a false alarm, which can be invasive and have their own harms.

What Is the Right Choice For YOU?

Don't Test

Test

Painless, requires minimal prep

Can reduce the risk of dying from lung cancer

Can lead to unnecessary treatment

Can reduce the risk of dying

What else can I do to reduce my lung cancer risk?

Even with lung cancer screening, quitting smoking or staying quit is still the best thing you can do.

If you are currently smoking, we are here to help.

Stopping smoking is not easy. There are a lot of options to support you, including medications. Talk to your doctor.

For more help contact the Colorado Quitline at 1-800-QUITNOW, or at CoQuitline.org.

For Providers

G0296 – Counseling visit to discuss need for lung cancer screening (LDCT) using low dose CT scan (service is for eligibility determination and shared decision making)

71271 – Low dose CT scan (LDCT) for lung cancer screening

99406 - Intermediate Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit is greater than three minutes, but not more than 10 minutes

99407 - Intensive Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit is greater than 10 minutes

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