

For immediate release:

Medicare Lung Cancer Screening Coverage A Victory for Patients

Washington, DC (Feb. 5, 2015) – Medicare’s [final decision to cover](#) computed tomography ([CT](#)) [lung cancer screening](#) gives seniors at high-risk for the disease access to care that can save more lives than any cancer screening test in history.

“Medicare got this right. Screening coverage will help save thousands of seniors each year from the nation’s [leading cancer killer](#). Screening programs can also help lower smoking rates. The process may even lead to better understanding of addiction as well as lung cancer in those who have never smoked,” said Laurie Fenton Ambrose, president and chief executive officer of the Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA).

CT lung cancer screening is the first and only [cost-effective](#) test proven to significantly [reduce](#) lung cancer deaths. More than 220,000 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer this year. Nearly 160,000 people will die from the disease - more than breast, colon and prostate cancers combined. This proven test, and the access to it that Medicare coverage allows, is a game changer in the battle against lung cancer.

“This is a great day for those at high-risk for lung cancer and their families. Now, we can save tens of thousands of people each year from this terrible disease that now kills more women in wealthy countries than breast cancer,” said Douglas E. Wood, M.D., past president of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will cover the exam for individuals age 55-77 years with a 30 pack-year smoking history and who currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years (one pack-year = smoking one pack per day for one year; 1 pack = 20 cigarettes). CMS will require providers to submit clinical and follow-up data to an approved registry. The [American College of Radiology \(ACR\) Lung Cancer Screening Registry](#) has applied for CMS approval to help providers efficiently meet those registry reporting requirements.

Screening infrastructure is in place and growing to meet screening demand:

- The [ACR Lung Cancer Screening Center program](#) helps ensure these exams are provided safely and effectively
- ACR [Lung-RADS](#)™ standardizes CT lung cancer screening reporting and management, aids lung CT interpretation and supports outcomes monitoring
- The ACR and the Society of Thoracic Radiology, also created CT lung cancer screening [practice parameters](#) for the performance of these exams
- The LCA National Framework for Excellence in Lung Cancer Screening and Continuum of Care identifies [medical centers that follow best practices](#) using multidisciplinary teams and incorporate ACR requirements to screen safely and effectively

“Medicare coverage of CT lung cancer screening will help screening programs nationwide save lives. If older current and former smokers and their doctors decide that screening is warranted, patients should seek out an ACR lung cancer screening center. Together, we will complete the first major blow against lung cancer,” said Ella Kazerooni, M.D., FACR, chair of the American College of Radiology Lung Cancer Screening Committee and American College of Radiology Thoracic Imaging Panel.

**For more information on CT lung cancer screening, visit: <http://bit.ly/1AzscyA>
To find an ACR Lung Cancer Screening Center, visit <http://bit.ly/1xptSFe>**

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