

Lung Cancer Screening

Are You A Candidate?

Lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer-related deaths in the US. This disease is responsible for more deaths annually 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. Recent studies have shown that this type of lung screening can reduce the risk of death by 20 percent. Fortunately, Upper Chesapeake Health now provides lung screening at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air. Here are some facts on this important screening program:

REDUCED-DOSE LUNG CANCER SCREENING CT PROGRAM

A lung screening uses a low dose CT scan of the chest to evaluate current or previous smokers for lung cancer. The lung screening is a non-invasive, painless procedure that looks for lung nodules in just a few minutes. It is performed on a CT scanner which is more precise at detecting nodules or cancer than standard chest x-rays. A lung nodule or tumor can be benign (noncancerous) or malignant (cancerous). By detecting malignant tumors at an early stage with CT lung screening, intervention can occur at a time when the cancer may still be curable and localized to the lungs.

WHO SHOULD BE SCREENED?

Screening candidates should:

- be 55-74 years of age
- AND currently smoke or have quit less than 15 years ago
- AND have smoked for a TOTAL of 30 pack-years (pack-years = number of packs of cigarettes smoked per day multiplied by TOTAL number of years smoking)
- Have no symptoms and have no history of lung cancer

WHEN ARE SCREENING RESULTS AVAILABLE?

All lung CT results are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team at Upper Chesapeake Health that includes a thoracic surgeon, oncologist, pulmonologist and radiologist. Results are provided directly to the referring physician to be discussed with the participant.



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WHERE ARE SCREENINGS OFFERED AND HOW CAN I SIGN UP?

Reduced-Dose Lung Cancer Screening CT is offered at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (500 Upper Chesapeake Drive in Bel Air). Physicians wanting to schedule a patient or patients that have already received a referral for the screening from their physician should call Upper Chesapeake Health at 443-843-LUNG or toll-free at 855-800-LUNG. A physician referral is required for this test. Ask your doctor if lung screening would benefit you.

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE SCREENING?

Upper Chesapeake Health offers reduced-dose CT lung cancer screenings for \$100 payable in cash, check or credit card at the time of the screening. At this time, we are unable to bill insurance for this service. When considering the expense for a pack-a-day smoker is over \$2,000/year, it may be the best \$100 investment in your health you could make.

If you do still smoke, there are lots of resources to help you finally kick the habit. Visit www.smokingstopshere.com or 1-800-QUIT NOW to learn how. The Harford County Health Department offers regular no-cost tobacco cessation classes. Call 410-612-1781 or go to their website to learn more: www.harfordcountyhealth.com

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