

# Primary Care Provider's Quick Guide to Lung Cancer Screening with Low Dose CT (LDCT)

## Who's eligible?

- Age 50-80 (or up to 77 on Medicare)
  - Asymptomatic
  - Currently smokes or quit within the past 15 years
  - Has a 20 pack-year smoking history
- Calculate this at [mdcalc.com](http://mdcalc.com)



A candidate should stop screening if: they have not smoked for 15 years or more  
OR develop a health problem that substantially limits life expectancy or the willingness or ability to have curative treatment.

**TIP:** A person doesn't need to quit tobacco use to be screened for lung cancer.

## Referral Process

Lung cancer screening programs can conduct the Shared Decision-Making (SDM) visit, often providing more robust information about lung cancer screening, the process, and pros and cons of screening. Get to know your local lung cancer screening programs to determine which referral process you'll follow.

Confirm candidate eligibility. → Refer to lung cancer screening facility for SDM, cessation counseling, and screening.

OR

↓  
Complete SDM counseling in person or via telehealth visit using a decision aid. Address risks and benefits, the need for annual screening and impact of comorbidities.

**TIP:** Online tools can help with Shared Decision-Making. Visit [ScreenLC.com](http://ScreenLC.com) or [ShouldIScreen.com](http://ShouldIScreen.com) for interactive tools to assess individual risk.

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Offer cessation services to people who still use tobacco, or support abstinence for people who used tobacco in the past. → Record SDM visit in the medical record and note it on the screening referral. Refer to lung cancer screening facility.



*In making a referral for LDCT, it must be noted to the referring entity that the shared decision-making visit has been conducted, documented, and coded. Failure to note this has been conducted may result in claim denial on either or both claims.*

**TIP:**

Nevada has a FREE tobacco quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW. You can refer someone to the quitline or they can call to start their quit on their own.

### Primary Care Billing and Diagnosis Codes

Follow-up	Codes
Shared Decision-Making	G0296 with Z87.891 or F17.210
LDCT	71271 with Z87.891 or F17.210
Tobacco Cessation Counseling	99406 (>3 min and <10 min) 99407 (>10 min)
Diagnostic CT, Chest	71250 (>1 time per year)

Claims that do not contain these ICD-10 diagnosis codes will be denied by Medicare:

- **Z87.891** for people who used to smoke (personal history of nicotine dependence).
- **F17.210** for people who currently smoke (nicotine dependence).

### Additional Resources

- National Lung Cancer Roundtable: **NLCRT.org**
- GO2 For Lung Cancer: **HCP.go2.org**
- American Lung Association: **Lung.org/Professional-Education**



Questions about your lung cancer screening program? Email NCC at [Lungs@NevadaCancerCoalition.org](mailto:Lungs@NevadaCancerCoalition.org). If you have questions specific to billing, be sure to contact the insurer first. NCC staff cannot help with individual claims but may be able to assist with persistent claim challenges.

[NevadaCancerCoalition.org](http://NevadaCancerCoalition.org)

