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Position Statement for Health Care Providers

Lung Cancer Screening*:
Low-Dose Spiral CT Scan

At this time, the Michigan Cancer Consortium has concluded that the current scientific evidence is insufficient to support the use of low-dose spiral computed axial tomography (CT scans) for lung cancer screening in asymptomatic individuals, including tobacco smokers. This position statement is consistent with recommendations of the United States Preventive Service Task Force and the National Cancer Institute.

Key questions that the Michigan Cancer Consortium's Lung Cancer Early Detection Workgroup considered in developing this position statement were:

1. Is spiral CT effective in detecting asymptomatic cancerous lesions?
2. Does identification of lung cancer through spiral CT screening of smokers reduce risk of death from lung cancer?

Other Considerations:

- Lung abnormalities found incidentally as a result of imaging studies conducted for other diagnostic purposes may not warrant immediate diagnostic or therapeutic intervention. For assistance in the management of these individuals, providers are referred to the American College of Chest Physicians' Diagnosis and Management of Lung Cancer: ACCP Evidence Based Guidelines at http://www.chestnet.org/education/guidelines/currentGuidelines.php#ebg

- Individuals who have questions regarding their risk of lung cancer should discuss their specific risk with their physician. Individuals with a history of tobacco smoking **and** either a history of lung cancer in a first-degree relative (biological parent, sibling, or child) **or** moderate-to-severe chronic obstructive airway disease are at higher risk for developing lung cancer.

- All health care providers are encouraged to promote:
  - Primary prevention of lung cancer with all patients including avoidance of tobacco use, exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke, and avoidance of environmental or occupational exposure to other known lung carcinogens**. Providers are referred to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (2000) Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: Clinical Practice Guidelines at: http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tobacco/5steps.htm
  - Enrollment in clinical research studies that could advance knowledge on the benefits and risks of lung screening. The Workgroup agreed with the conclusion of a recent publication that stated, "Screening for lung cancer with low-dose CT may increase the rate of lung cancer diagnosis and treatment, but may not meaningfully reduce the risk of advanced lung cancer or death from lung cancer. Until more conclusive data are available, asymptomatic individuals should not be screened outside of clinical research studies that have a reasonable likelihood of further clarifying the potential benefits and risks."

**Screening involves the application of a relatively simple and inexpensive test to asymptomatic or symptom-free subjects in order to determine if they are likely or unlikely to have the cancer. Persons with positive or suspicious findings can then be subjected to further diagnostic procedures and necessary treatment.*
***Lung carcinogens include: asbestos, radon, beryllium, and uranium.*