

Position Statement For Consumers

Lung Cancer Screening: CT Scan*

After reviewing the results of scientific studies, the Michigan Cancer Consortium has concluded that lung cancer screening using CT* scans (computed axial tomography) is not recommended for symptom-free (asymptomatic) individuals, including tobacco smokers.

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 cancer. Persons with positive or suspicious findings can then be subjected to further diagnostic procedures and necessary treatment.

- 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 (emphysema) are at higher risk for developing lung cancer.
- *The most effective way to prevent death from lung cancer is to not smoke and to get help to quit tobacco use; avoid exposure to tobacco smoke in your home or workplace, and avoid occupational or environmental exposure to other known lung toxins**.*
- If you are a smoker and are ready to quit or have considered quitting, seek assistance from your health care provider or go to www.michigan.gov/tobacco. If you prefer to quit through phone counseling, contact the Michigan Tobacco QuitLine at 1-800-480-7848.

*Other common names for CT scans include: Chest CT; CT scan - lungs; CT scan – chest; and/or, Low-Dose Spiral CT scan.

**Lung toxins include: asbestos, radon, beryllium, and uranium.