

# Guidelines for Ordering CT Lung Cancer Screening and Follow-Up Exams

Qualified patients must satisfy all of the criteria listed below. The information must be documented on your referral or a RIMI representative will have to contact you for a new order.

- Asymptomatic patient (no signs or symptoms of lung cancer).
- Patient is between 55-77 years old (80 with some insurances).
- Pack year smoking history must equal or exceed 30 pack years. You must include the actual calculations on the referral and "greater than 30 years" is not sufficient.  
Packs/Day: \_\_\_\_\_ x Years Smoked: \_\_\_\_\_ = Pack Years
- Patient is a current smoker (or has quit within the last 15 years). If not currently smoking, you must include how many years since they quit.
- Provider NPI must be included on your order.



**For Initial Exam or  
1+ Year Follow-Up**

Low Dose CT Chest WO  
Contrast for Lung Cancer  
Screening = **CPT 71271**



**Recommended 1 Year  
Follow-Up? Continue  
With Annual Screening**

Low Dose CT Chest WO  
Contrast for Lung Cancer  
Screening = **CPT 71271**



**Recommended Interval  
Follow-Up  
Less Than 1 Year  
(1, 3, 6, 9 Months, etc.)**

Low Dose CT Chest WO  
Contrast for Follow-Up to Lung  
Cancer Screening  
= **CPT 71250**

# CT for Lung Cancer Screening

CPT for Lung Cancer Screening is 71271 as of 1/1/2021\*\*

Blue Cross of Rhode Island (0004) No Age Limit Blue Chip Commercial (0117) No Age Limit	Covered but requires Authorization CPT Code 71271
Cigna Health Care (0185, 0116) & Carelink (0168) Ages 55-80	Covered but requires Authorization CPT Code 71271
Federal Employees (0096) Ages 55-80	Covered Service – FEP Focus Plan requires Authorization <b>Only criteria required is age and history of tobacco use</b> CPT Code 71271
RI Medical Assistance/EDS (0002) Ages 55-80	Covered but requires Authorization CPT Code 71271
Medicare (0001) Ages 55-77 United Medicare (0164) Ages 55-77 BlueChip Medicare (0186) No Age Limit	Covered Service CPT Code 71271
Neighborhood Health Plan of RI (0702) Ages 55-80 Neighborhood of RI Access Plan (X702) Ages 55-80 Neighborhood Integrity Plan (M702) Ages 55-80	Covered but requires Authorization CPT Code 71271
Tufts (0165, 0188, 0163, 0960) Ages 55-80	Covered but requires Authorization CPT Code 71271
Harvard Pilgrim (0183) Ages 55-80	Covered but requires Authorization CPT Code 71271
United Health Care (0160, 0023, 0144, 0147, 0704) Ages 55-80	Covered but requires Authorization CPT Code 71271

**\*\* Aetna (71271), & Tricare (71271) Ages 55-80\*\***

Patients can have an annual **(1 per year)** Lung Cancer Screening CT performed. Patients must meet all of the following criteria in order to have a Lung Cancer Screening. **If the exam is authorized but the patient does not meet the screening criteria, the patient must sign the waiver form.**

- They are age appropriate according to each insurance company, and are either current smokers or have quit smoking within the last 15 years
- They have a tobacco smoking history of at least 30 “pack years” (an average of one pack a day for 30 years)
- Asymptomatic/no signs or symptoms of lung cancer
- Written order from a physician or qualified health professional
- Referring Providers NPI number

**Referring Providers must include the above Lung Cancer Screening criteria on all orders.**

