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Origination Date	07/08/2024
Originated Department	Clinical Operations

Low-Dose Computed Tomography for Lung Cancer Services

Audience
Providers, Members, Brokers, MHC

Purpose
Medical policies provide general support for applying Mountain Health Co-Op member policy document coverage decisions and must reference the member-specific benefit plan document. The terms of the member-specific Policy document may differ from the standard benefit plan on which this medical policy is based. If there is a conflict between a member-specific policy document and the Mountain Health Co-Op medical policy, the member-specific policy document supersedes this medical policy. Any person(s) applying this medical policy must identify member eligibility, the member-specific policy document, and related policies or guidelines before applying this medical policy, including the existence of any state or federal guidance. Mountain Health Co-Op medical policies are designed for informational purposes only and are not an authorization, explanation of benefits, or contract. Receipt of benefits is subject to satisfaction of all terms and conditions of the member-specific policy document coverage. Mountain Health Co-Op reserves the sole discretionary right to modify all policies and guidelines at any time.

Definition
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Policy/Procedure

1. Commercial Plans/CHIP

Mountain Health Co-Op may cover annual low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scanning as a screening test if the following criteria are met:

1.1 For current smoking members:

- a) Age 50 to 80 years;
- b) Smokes at least 20 pack years;
- c) Member is asymptomatic for signs of underlying cancer or health concern that limits life expectancy or the ability or willingness to have curative lung surgery.

1.2 For former smoking members:

- a) Age 50 to 80 years;
- b) Smoked at least 20 pack years
- c) Has quit within the past 15 years
- d) Member is asymptomatic for signs of underlying cancer or health concern that limits life expectancy or the ability or willingness to have curative lung surgery.

2. Mountain Health Co-Op does NOT cover annual low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scanning as a screening test for any other indication as it is considered investigational/experimental.

3. Clinical Rationale

3.1 In a 2019 secondary analysis of the randomized National Lung Screening Trial (NLST), Tammemägi et. al. questioned if incorporating low-dose computed tomography lung cancer screening results would improve the regression risk model's NLST Lung Screening Study (LSS) that was validated in NLST American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) data. The study took place between August 2002 and April 2004, with the first analysis in 2009. The secondary analysis looked at participants between August 2013 and November 2018. The PLCOm2012 is a lung cancer risk prediction model that was used in this study and has been validated by research teams in several countries, including the U.S. A total of 22,229 participants, LSS (n = 14 576) and ACRIN (n = 7653), were included in the study. The authors found that, some individuals who have negative initial screens with elevated risk scores remain at risk and warrant annual screening. The use of PLCOm2012 results could lead to fewer screens, which may reduce certain harms, such as radiation exposure, false-positive findings, over diagnosis and could potentially improve cost-effectiveness.

3.2 As of 2021, the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends the following for Lung Cancer Screening: "Annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) in adults aged 50 to 80 years who have a 20 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. Screening should be discontinued once a person has not smoked for 15 years or

develops a health problem that substantially limits life expectancy or the ability or willingness to have curative lung surgery.”

- 3.3** The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) version 1.2023 recommends lung cancer screening using LDCT for individuals with high risk factors, including aged >50 years or a history of smoking >20 or more packs a year, with additional risk factors (i.e. personal history of cancer or lung disease, family history of lung cancer in first-degree relatives, radon exposure, disease history of COPD or pulmonary fibrosis, smoking exposure [second-hand smoke] and occupational exposure to carcinogens.

Applicable Codes

CPT Codes

71271 Computed tomography, thorax, low dose for lung cancer screening, without contrast material(s)

HCPCS Codes

G0296 Counseling visit to discuss need for lung cancer screening using low dose CT scan (LDCT) (service is for eligibility determination and shared decision making)

ICD-10 Codes

F17.200 Nicotine dependence, unspecified, uncomplicated

F17.201 Nicotine dependence, unspecified, in remission
F17.210 Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated
F17.211 Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, in remission

Z12.2 Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of respiratory organs

Z72.0 Tobacco use

Z87.891 Personal history of nicotine dependence

Vendors

- **Personify**
- **HPS**

References

1. National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN). “Lung Cancer Screening”. Version 1-2023. Accessed February 6, 2023. Available at: https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/lung_screening.pdf
2. Tammemägi, M. C., et al. (2019). "Development and Validation of a Multivariable Lung Cancer Risk Prediction Model That Includes Low-Dose Computed Tomography Screening Results: A Secondary Analysis of Data From the National Lung Screening Trial Multivariable Lung Cancer Risk Prediction Model Including CT Screening Results." JAMA Network Open 2(3): e190204-e190204.
3. UpToDate®. “Lung Cancer Screening”. Literature current through: January 2024. Topic last updated: November 21, 2023. Topic 7566. Version 114.0. Accessed February 6, 2024. Available at: <https://www.uptodate.com>
4. U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF). (2021) “Lung Cancer: Screening”. Accessed: January 29, 2024. Available at: <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/lung-cancer-screening>

Review/Revision/Approval History	
Date	Description
07/08/2024	New Policy
04/27/2026	Reviewed and approve by Mountain Health CO-OP Policy Committee

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