Lung Cancer Screening Program
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that the evidence is sufficient to add a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision making visit, and for appropriate beneficiaries, annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) as an additional preventive service benefit under the Medicare program only if all of the following criteria are met:

**Beneficiary eligibility criteria:**
- Age 55–77 years;
- Asymptomatic (no signs or symptoms of lung cancer);
- Tobacco smoking history of at least 30 pack-years (one pack-year = smoking one pack per day for one year; 1 pack = 20 cigarettes);
- Current smoker or one who has quit smoking within the last 15 years; and
- Receives a written order for LDCT lung cancer screening that meets below criteria:

To Order a Lung Cancer Screening
For the initial LDCT lung cancer screening service: a beneficiary must receive a written order for LDCT lung cancer screening during a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision making visit. A lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision making visit includes the following elements (and is appropriately documented in the beneficiary’s medical records):

- The patient has participated in a shared decision making session during which potential risks and benefits of CT lung screening were discussed.

- The patient was informed of the importance of adherence to annual screening, impact of comorbidities, and ability/willingness to undergo diagnosis and treatment.

- The patient was informed of the importance of smoking cessation and/or maintaining smoking abstinence, including the offer of Medicare-covered tobacco cessation counseling services, if applicable.

- The patient is asymptomatic (no symptoms such as fever, chest pain, new shortness of breath, new or changing cough, coughing up blood, or unexplained significant weight loss).

An order has been created that encompasses all of the required elements—please use this order form.

After the screening is complete, you will receive a copy of the CT report, including any recommendations for follow-up. All recommendations will follow the published Fleishner criteria and will be recorded and tracked by Palmetto Health’s Radiology team. Repeat annual screening/follow-up appointment reminders will be sent to you and your patient similar to mammography screenings.

As with any screening test, there is the possibility of a false positive result, which can be expected to occur 20 to 25 percent of the time. The false positive rate is mitigated by the overall relative mortality benefit of seven percent, observed in the NLST for those who underwent LDCT lung cancer screening.

To Schedule a Lung Cancer Screening
If you have a patient who is interested in lung cancer screening, encourage them to call 803-296-CARE (2273) Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., to complete a questionnaire to see if they qualify.

National Lung Screen Trial Background Information
The National Lung Screening Trial (NLST), a large, National Cancer Institute (NCI)-sponsored, randomized controlled trial, recently confirmed screening individuals at high risk for lung cancer with an annual low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) of the chest saves lives. In the NLST:

- One in 100 high-risk people enrolled in the study were found to have lung cancer on the first screening exam.

- One life was saved for every 320 high-risk people screened with LDCT over a two year period (three screens), resulting in a relative 20 percent lung cancer-specific mortality benefit versus annual chest radiography.

As a result, National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) recommends that people who are at high risk for lung cancer, including those who are ages 55–77 and who have smoked at least an average of one pack a day for 30 years, undergo annual LDCT lung cancer screening. This includes people who still smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. Those who have symptoms of a lung condition at the time of screening, such as a new cough or shortness of breath, are not eligible.