CT LUNG CANCER SCREENING
PHYSICIAN REFERRAL CRITERIA
(CMS GUIDELINES)

1. If the patient is a current heavy smoker (with ≥ a 30 pack-year*) whose age is between 55 and 80**.

2. If the patient is a former heavy smoker (ages 55-80**) with a ≥ 30-pack year* smoking history who quit less than 15 years ago.

   *A pack-year = # packs per day by # years smoked.
   **While Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) cover ages 55-77, major insurance carriers are covering CT lung screenings up to 80 years of age (Aetna is 79). Other criteria include: no signs or symptoms of lung cancer; tobacco smoking history of at least 30 pack-years; current smoker or one who has quit smoking less than 15 years ago.

3. Receives a written order for CT lung cancer screening that meets the following criteria:
   (Medicare only) For the initial CT lung cancer screening service: a patient must receive a written order for CT lung screening during an independent lung cancer screening counseling & shared decision making visit (Procedure code G0296. Use with Modifier 25 if on the same day as a Wellness or E/M visit.). This is furnished by a physician or other qualified healthcare personnel (Physician Assistant, APRN, or Clinical Nurse Specialist). The visit includes the following elements (and is appropriately documented in the patient’s medical records):
   i. Determination of patient eligibility including age, absence of signs/ symptoms of lung cancer, specific calculation of pack-years; and if a former smoker, number of years since quitting;
   ii. Shared decision making, including the use of one or more decision aids, to include benefits and risks of screening, follow-up diagnostic testing, over-diagnosis, false positive rate, and total radiation exposure;
   iii. Counseling on the importance of adherence to annual lung cancer CT screening, impact of comorbidities and ability or willingness to undergo diagnosis and treatment;
   iv. Counseling on the importance of maintaining cigarette smoking abstinence if former smoker; or the importance of smoking cessation if current smoker and, if appropriate, furnishing of information about tobacco cessation interventions.

4. Any patient inquiring into a CT lung screening may call 855.34KYONE (59663) for further information.

Proposed Coding

ICD-10 Codes:  
Z87.891 Personal history-nicotine dependence (required for Medicare reimbursement);
F17.210 Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated;  Z72.0 Tobacco use

Procedure: HCPCS S-8032 (for Medicare: G0297) Low-dose CT for lung cancer screening

For all the latest CTLS forms, go to:  