Patient Eligibility Checklist

Eligibility Snapshot

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Eligibility according to:** | **USPSTF** | | **CMS** |
| **Relevant group:** | Persons with private health insurance | | Medicare/ Medicaid\* beneficiaries |
| **Age (years):** | 50–80\* | | 55–77 |
| **Smoking status:** | Current or former (quit within last 15 years) | | |
| **Smoking history:** | ≥20 pack-years | ≥30 pack-years | |
| **Patient health:** | * No signs of lung cancer (coughing up blood/ persistent cough/ unexplained weight loss) * Patients with comorbidities that limit life expectancy should be screened with caution (confirm with clinician) | | |
| **Patient expectations** | Must be willing to seek treatment for lung cancer if necessary | | |

\*USPSTF expanded screening guidelines on March 9, 2021, lowering eligibility to 50 years of age and tobacco exposure to 20 pack years. Private insurance payers have until January 1, 2023 to adopt and cover the expanded guidelines but may voluntarily do so before that date. You may need to check with each private payer to verify if they are currently covering the expanded guidelines.

Pack years determination:

**Average packs smoked per day**

**Pack years**

**Years smoked**

X =

***A note about pack years calculation*** *– Calculating an accurate pack year history is very important, but is not always a straightforward process – tips to collect accurate information for the pack years calculation are on the next page!*

Questions to determine eligibility:

1. What type of health insurance do you have? Private Medicare Medicaid\* None†

\*Medicaid only covers screening in some states, †Determine if your screening program offers a self-pay option.

Pt not eligible if <55 yrs or > 77 yrs (50 - 80 for USPSTF)

1. What is your current age? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_yrs
2. What is your current smoking status? Current Former Never (not eligible)
3. *If person formerly smoked*: How many years ago did you quit smoking? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_yrs

Pt not eligible of they quit smoking more than 15 years ago

1. For how many years total have you smoked cigarettes? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_yrs
2. On average, how many packs per day do/ did you smoke? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_packs

Pt not eligible if less than 30 total pack year smoking history

1. Pack years calculation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Packs per day Years smoked Pack years

1. If a cancer were to be found from screening, are you willing to undergo treatment?

The *American Thoracic Society* recommends waiting until a full year has passed before having another chest CT for screening purposes.

Yes No (not eligible)

1. Have you had a chest CT for another diagnostic reason in the past year? Yes ☐ No ☐

Other important considerations:

* Individuals showing signs of lung cancer should meet with a clinician to discuss the symptoms.
* Individuals with limited life expectancy due to other comorbid conditions or those that are poor surgical candidates should be screened with caution. Eligibility should be reviewed by a clinician.

**Tips on how to collect an accurate smoking history**

Accurately determining how long an individual has been smoking

* A patient may not know how many years they have been smoking. You can ask them questions to estimate this yourself:

1. At what age did you start smoking?
2. At what age you quit smoking (for individuals that formerly smoke)?
3. At any point were you not smoking cigarettes?
   1. Can you estimate how many years you were not smoking (if yes to Q3)?

**Example.** A patient that is currently 58 years old does not know how many years they have been smoking, but they do know started when they were 16 and smoked until they were 40, stopped for 5 years and then has been smoking since then. You can calculate they smoked for **24 years** from the ages of 16 to 40 and then another **13 years** from the ages of 45 to 58. **Total years smoked = 24 years + 13 years = 37 years.**

Accurately determining pack years

* A patient may know the number of cigarettes they have been smoked per day but may not necessarily know the number of packs. There are 20 cigarettes in a pack, you can convert the number of cigarettes accordingly:
  + 5 cigarettes = ¼ pack
  + 10 cigarettes = ½ pack
  + 20 cigarettes = 1 pack
  + 40 cigarettes = 2 packs, etc.
* A patient may not be able to answer how many packs on average they smoked over their lifetime. You may have to calculate pack years based on several estimates and then add them together.

**Example.** A patient smoked 2 packs/ day for 20 years and then 1 pack/ day for 10 years. You will calculate 2 packs x 20 years = 40 pack years and 1 pack x 10 years = 10 pack years. **40 + 10 = 50 total pack years.**

What about cigars, pipes, and e-cigarettes?

**Navigation Key Points**

* Make sure patient eligibility criteria is documented in the medical record! It is required by CMS to cover the cost of the screening CT scan.
* Make sure a clinician has reviewed the patient’s eligibility and that a written order for the CT scan is provided to the imaging center or department.
* Patients may want to include information on other types of smoking to fully capture their smoking history. At this time, eligibility criteria for lung cancer screening by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid is based solely on cigarette smoking history. Other types of smoking and tobacco use should not be used to determine screening eligibility.