

Status of Lung Cancer Screening Coverage

The American College of Radiology® (ACR®) collaborated with the GO₂ Foundation for Lung Cancer and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons to [send a letter](#) to the top five national private insurers (**Aetna, Anthem, Cigna, Health Care Services Corporation, and UnitedHealthcare**) requesting that the payers update their lung cancer screening (LCS) coverage policies in accordance with the updated United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) [guidelines](#) as soon as possible.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 requires insurers to cover preventive services with an “A” or “B” rating by the USPSTF at no cost to patients. However, payers are given up to one year from the start of the next plan year to update their coverage policies when USPSTF guidelines are changed.

March 2021 USPSTF Recommendation Summary

<u>Population</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Grade</u>
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	The USPSTF recommends 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.	B

See insurance coverage for lung cancer screening with Lung Cancer Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT).

Commercial Plans

<u>Payer</u>	<u>Policy Link</u>	<u>States</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>USPSTF Criteria Adopted</u>
Aetna	http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/300_399/0380.html	AK,AL,AR,AZ,CA,CO,CT,DC,DE,FL,GA,GU,HI,IA,ID,IL,IN,KS,KY,LA,MA,MD,ME,MI,MN,MO,MP,MS,MT,NC,ND,NE,NH,NJ,NM,NV,NY,OH,OK,OR,PA,RI,SC,SD,TN,TX,UT,VA,VI,VT,WA,WI,WV,WY	Medical Policy	5/7/2021	Yes
AIM Specialty Health	https://aimspecialtyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/AIM_Guidelines_Oncologic_Imaging.pdf	Commercial in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, FN, GA, GU, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MP, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY	Guideline	5/1/2021	Yes
BlueAdvantage Administrators of Arkansas	https://secure.blueadvantagearkansas.com/providers/MPR_eport.aspx?policyNumber=187&prefix=TYG	AR	Guideline	9/10/2021	Yes

BCBS Kansas	https://www.bcbsks.com/medical-policies/screening-lung-cancer-using-ct-scanning-0	Commercial in KS	Medical Policy	9/1/2021	Yes
BCBS Michigan	https://www.bcbsm.com/amslibs/content/dam/public/mpr/mprsearch/pdf/77004.pdf	Commercial in MI; Medicare Advantage in MI	Medical Policy	7/1/2021	Yes
BCBS Massachusetts	https://aimspecialtyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/AIM_Guidelines_Oncologic_Imaging.pdf	Commercial in MA; Medicare in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MP, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY; Public Employers in MA	Medical Policy	5/1/2021	Yes
Blue Care Network	https://www.bcbsm.com/amslibs/content/dam/public/mpr/mprsearch/pdf/77004.pdf	Commercial in MI; Medicare Advantage in MI	Medical Policy	7/1/2021	Yes
Buckeye Health Plan	https://www1.radmd.com/media/937681/2021-magellan-advanced-imaging-guidelines-v7.pdf	Commercial in OH; Medicaid/CHIP in OH; Medicare in CA, FL, GA, KY, OH	Guideline	1/1/2021	Yes
Cigna	https://www.evicore.com/-/media/files/evicore/provider/network-standard/cigna_chest_final_v20_eff_100121_pub-07202021.pdf	CareAllies; Cigna; Commercial in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, FN, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY; eviCore Healthcare	Guideline	10/1/2021	Yes
Colorado Medicaid	https://hcpf.colorado.gov/imagining-manual#covProc	CO	Medical Policy	1/01/2021	Yes
eviCore Healthcare	https://www.evicore.com/-/media/files/evicore/provider/network-standard/cigna_chest_final_v20_eff_100121_pub-07202021.pdf	CareAllies; Cigna; Commercial in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, FN, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA,	Guideline	10/1/2021	Yes

		WI, WV, WY; eviCore Healthcare			
Excellus	https://provider.excellusbcbs.com/documents/20152/127121/Low-Dose+Computed+Tomography+%28LDCT%29+for+Lung+Cancer+Screening.pdf/73546ecf-5194-4eec-9150-86ef6f1c16b2	Commercial in NY; Affiliates Univera Healthcare	Medical Policy	4/15/2021	Yes
Harvard Pilgrim	https://www1.radmd.com/media/937681/2021-magellan-advanced-imaging-guidelines-v7.pdf	CT, MA, ME, NH	Guideline	1/1/2021	Yes
Hawaii Medical Services Association	http://www.radmd.com/assets/Clinical%20Guidelines//NIA%20Standard%20Guidelines%202021/Low%20Dose%20CT%20for%20Lung%20CA%20Screening%202021%20v3%20-%20HMSA.pdf	HA	Guideline	4/1/2021	Yes
Humana	https://dctm.humana.com/Mentor/Web/v.aspx?objectID=09000929830ac610	Medicare Advantage in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY; Medicare-Medicaid Dual-Eligibles in AL, CA, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, ME, MO, MS, MT, NC, NE, NY, OH, PA, PR, SC, TN, TX, WA; Managed Medicaid FL	Medical Policy	5/27/2021	Yes
Medica	https://www.medica.com/-/media/documents/provider/coverage-policies/low-dose-computed-tomography-cp.pdf	Commercial in IA, MN, ND, NE, SD, WI; Managed Medicaid in MN, ND, SD, WI; Medicare Advantage in MN, ND, SD, WI	Medical Policy	4/19/2021	Yes
National Imaging Associates	https://www1.radmd.com/media/937681/2021-magellan-advanced-imaging-guidelines-v7.pdf	Commercial in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, FN, GA, GU, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MP, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC,	Guideline	1/1/2021	Yes

		SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY			
Molina Healthcare	https://www.molinahealthcare.com/-/media/Molina/PublicWebsite/PDF/Providers/il/resource/Low-Dose-CT-Scan-for-Lung-Cancer-Screening_MCR_658.pdf	AZ, CA, FL, ID, IL, KY, MA, MI, MS, NM, NY, OH, SC, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI	Medical Policy	6/29/2021	Yes
National Imaging Associates	http://www.radmd.com/assets/Clinical%20Guidelines//Health%20Plan%20Specific%20Guidelines%202020/Low%20Dose%20CT%20for%20Lung%20CA%20Screening%20Tufts%2020%20v2.pdf	Commercial:AK,AL,AR,AZ,CA,CO,CT,DC,DE,FL,GA,GU,HI,IA,ID,IL,IN,KS,KY,LA,MA,MD,ME,MI,MN,MO,MP,MS,MT,NC,ND,NE,NH,NJ,NM,NV,NY,OH,OK,OR,PA,PR,RI,SC,SD,TN,TX,UT,VA,VI,VT,WA,WI,WV,WY]	Medical Policy	3/1/2021	Yes
Paramount	https://www.paramounthealthcare.com/assets/documents/MedicalPolicy/PG0049_CT_Screening_for_Lung_Cancer_in_Heavy_Smokers.pdf	Commercial in MI, OH; Medicare Advantage in MI, OH	Medical Policy	3/9/2021	Yes
Texas Medicaid	https://www.evicore.com/-/media/files/evicore/provider/network-standard/cigna_chest_final_v20_eff_100121_pub-07202021.pdf	Medicaid/CHIP in TX; eviCore Healthcare	Medical Policy	9/1/2021	Yes
United Healthcare	https://www.uhc.com/content/dam/uhcdotcom/en/HealthAndWellness/PDF/preventive-care-guidelines_en.pdf	Medicare Advantage in AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV	Medical Policy	9/1/2021	Yes
Univera Healthcare	https://provider.univerahealthcare.com/documents/20152/127124/Low-Dose+Computed+Tomography+%28LDCT%29+for+Lung+Cancer+Screening.pdf/95fe0dbd-3426-b24d-fcaa-5dced7611ac6	Univera Healthcare Commercial in NY: Affiliates Excellus	Medical Policy	4/15/2021	Yes
Wellmark	https://www.wellmark.com/Provider/MedpoliciesAndAuthorizations/MedicalPolicies/polic	Commercial in IA, SD	Medical Policy	4/1/2021	Yes

	ies/Screening_Lung_Cancer.aspx?pf=true				
Wisconsin Medicaid	https://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/Subsystem/KW/Print.aspx?ia=1&p=1&sa=22&s=2&c=61&nt=Low-Dose+Computed+Tomography+Scans	Medicaid FFS in WI	Medical Policy	7/3/2021	Yes

*Disclaimer: All payer contracts are NOT the same. All legislation/regulations on this subject may not be included. This document is for informational purposes only. Please contact your health plan directly for specific coverage details.

Resources

American Lung Association

- [State Lung Cancer Screening Coverage Toolkit](#)
- [Eligibility Criteria, Prior Authorization, and Copayment Information for State Medicaid Fee-For-Service Programs Covering Lung Cancer Screening](#)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- [Decision Memo for Screening for Lung Cancer with Low Dose Computed Tomography \(LDCT\)](#)
- [State Medicaid Plans and Waivers](#)

Medicare

- [Lung Cancer Screenings](#)
- Lung Cancer Screening with Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) (210.14) - National Coverage Determination (NCD) – policy is being updated expected completion is February 2022.

Medicaid Plans

- [State Overviews](#)

U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF)

- [Final Recommendation Statement - Lung Cancer: Screening](#), March 9, 2021

Questions contact.

Coverage/Payments

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