

LUNG SCREENING

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF LUNG SCREENING?

Lung screening at Mass General Brigham provides patients with the latest imaging technology, the expertise of radiologists who are experienced in reading lung screening exams and expert multidisciplinary care from detection to treatment. Lung cancer can be detected using a screening test called a low-dose CT scan (LDCT). It has the potential to detect lung cancer at earlier stages, before it causes symptoms, when it has the best chance of being cured. Early detection saves lives. This 15-minute exam is painless, non-invasive and requires no preparation.

SHOULD I BE SCREENED FOR LUNG CANCER?

Lung screening is recommended for adults who have the greatest risk of lung cancer. Early detection can find lung cancer in its early stages when it has the best chance of being cured.

Answer these questions to find out if you are eligible for lung screening:

- **Are you between 50 and 80 years old?***
- **Do you have a 20 “pack year” or greater history?***
A “pack year” equals the number of packs of cigarettes smoked per day multiplied by the number of years smoked. One pack equals 20 cigarettes.
- **Do you currently smoke or have you quit in the past 15 years?**

*Patients should check with their insurers. Some may require a prior authorization. Others may only cover patients age 55-80 and 30+ pack years.

If you answered yes to these questions or feel unsure, talk to your doctor about your risk for lung cancer and if lung screening is right for you.

HOW CAN I GET SCREENED?

Talk to your doctor about your risk for lung cancer and discuss the risks and benefits of being screened. If you are eligible for lung screening, your doctor can refer you for an exam.

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HOW DO I GET THE RESULTS?

A radiologist will interpret your exam and send your doctor a report. Your doctor may contact you to discuss recommendations for next steps if needed. Your results will be available in Mass General Brigham Patient Gateway.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF SCREENING?

- **False positive finding:** screening may show an abnormal result that turns out to be non-cancerous but may need further diagnostic tests or referral to a specialist.
- **False negative finding:** screening may not pick up some cases of lung cancer.
- **Over-diagnosis:** screening can discover small lung cancers that may not cause you any harm in your lifetime but can result in further testing or surgery.
- **Incidental findings:** screening sometimes shows findings in other organs such as the heart.
- **Radiation risk:** the radiation dose of a LDCT scan is equal to about a quarter of the naturally occurring background radiation received at sea level per year. We have extensive experience in reducing radiation doses for all imaging exams.
- **Anxiety:** being screened and evaluated for positive or incidental findings may cause significant stress and anxiety in some patients.

IF YOU ARE A CURRENT SMOKER

The best thing you can do to reduce your risk of lung cancer is to stop smoking.

It is more effective than any test or intervention to reduce your risk. Talk to your doctor or contact: **Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline** (free and confidential) 1-800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669) | [makesmokinghistory.org](https://www.makesmokinghistory.org)

LUNG SCREENING LOCATIONS:

MASS GENERAL IMAGING – BOSTON

55 Fruit Street
Boston, MA 02114
617-724-9729

MASS GENERAL IMAGING – CHELSEA

80 Everett Avenue
Chelsea, MA 02150
617-877-3500

MASS GENERAL IMAGING – WALTHAM

52 Second Avenue
Green Building | Suite 140
Waltham, MA 02451
781-487-6020

MASS GENERAL IMAGING – DANVERS

102 Endicott Street
Danvers, MA 01923
978-882-6184

- Once your doctor has placed an order you can schedule your exam: **617-724-9729**
- For more information about lung screening, visit our website: [massgeneralimaging.org/lungscreening](https://www.massgeneralimaging.org/lungscreening)