Reimbursement Clinical Guidelines:
Lung Cancer Screening With Low Dose Computed Tomography

Policy Position

This reimbursement policy applies to low–dose computed tomography (LDCT) based on medical necessity. Assures HIM, ACA Commercial and Medicare Lung Cancer Screening reimburse appropriately and according to medical necessity guidelines and the members health plan.

FirstCare Health Plans follows this requirement under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) preventive service for lung cancer screening:

- Annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography
- Adults ages 55 to 80 years
- Have a 30 pack-year smoking history
- Currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years
- Discontinue the screening 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.

Disclaimer

FirstCare has developed coding and reimbursement policies ("Reimbursement Policies") to provide ready access and general guidance on payment methodologies for medical, surgical and behavioral health services.

These policies are subject to all terms of the Provider Service Agreement as well as changes, updates and other requirements of Reimbursement Policies. All Reimbursement Policies are also subject to federal HIPAA rules, and in the case of medical code sets (HCPCS, CPT, ICD-10), FirstCare accepts codes valid for the date of service. Additionally, Reimbursement Policies supplement certain standard FirstCare benefit plans and aid in administering benefits. Thus, federal and state law, contract language, etc. take precedence over the Reimbursement Policies (e.g., Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS] National Coverage Determinations [NCDs], Local Coverage Determinations [LCDs] or other published documents). Moreover, the terms of a member's particular Benefit Plan, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, etc., may differ significantly from Reimbursement Policies. For example, a member's benefit plan may contain specific exclusions related to the topic addressed in Reimbursement Policies.

Most importantly, our Reimbursement Policies relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans and are **not** recommendations for treatment or treatment guidelines. Providers are responsible for the treatment and recommendations provided to the member.

All Reimbursement Policies are subject to change prior to the annual review date. Lines of business (LOB) are subject to change without notice; individual Reimbursement Policies list the applicable LOBs.

Medical Necessity

Low-Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) Scanning. FirstCare considers an annual low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scanning, also known as spiral CT or helical CT scanning, medically necessary for a current or a former smokers ages 55 to 80 years with a 30 pack-year or more smoking history and, if a former smoker, has quit within the past 15 years. FirstCare considers LDCT experimental and investigational as a screening test for all other indications.

Computer-Aided Detection for Chest Radiographs. FirstCare considers computer-aided detection for chest radiographs experimental and investigational for screening or diagnosis of lung cancer and for all other indications.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET). FirstCare considers positron emission tomography (PET) experimental and investigational for lung cancer screening because its effectiveness for this indication has not been established.

Applicable Billing Codes

Reimburse the following services codes when billed with one or more of the primary diagnosis codes listed:			
Diagnosis		**CPT/HCPS**	
F17.210	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated	G0296	Counseling visit to discuss need for lung cancer screening using low dose CT scan (LDCT) (service is for eligibility determination and shared decision making)
F17.211	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, in remission	G0297	Low dose CT scan (LDCT) for lung cancer screening
F17.213	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, with withdrawal		
F17.218	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, with other nicotine-induced disorders		
F17.219	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, with unspecified nicotine-induced disorders		
F17.290	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, uncomplicated		
F17.291	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, in remission		
F17.293	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, with withdrawal		
F17.298	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, with other nicotine-induced disorders		
F17.299	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, with unspecified nicotine-induced disorders		
Z12.2	Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of respiratory organs		
Z72.0	Tobacco use		
Z87.891	Personal history of nicotine dependence		

Do not reimburse the following services for any indication:	
0174T	Computer-aided detection (CAD) (computer algorithm analysis of digital image data for lesion detection) with further physician review for interpretation and report, with or without digitization of film radiographic images, chest radiograph(s), performed concurrent with primary interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure))
0175T	Computer-aided detection (CAD) (computer algorithm analysis of digital image data for lesion detection) with further physician review for interpretation and report, with or without digitization of film radiographic images, chest radiograph(s), performed remote from primary interpretation

Do not reimburse the following service codes when billed with one or more of the primary diagnosis codes listed:			
Diagnosis		**CPT/HCPS**	
F17.210	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated	71250	Computed tomography, thorax; without contrast material
F17.211	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, in remission	78811	Positron emission tomography (PET) imaging; limited area (e.g., chest, head/neck)
F17.213	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, with withdrawal	78812	Positron emission tomography (PET) imaging; skull base to mid-thigh
F17.218	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, with other nicotine-induced disorders	78813	Positron emission tomography (PET) imaging; whole body
F17.219	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, with unspecified nicotine-induced disorders	78814	Positron emission tomography (PET) with concurrently acquired computed tomography (CT) for attenuation correction and anatomical localization imaging; limited area (e.g., chest, head/neck)
F17.290	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, uncomplicated	78815	Positron emission tomography (PET) with concurrently acquired computed tomography (CT) for attenuation correction and anatomical localization imaging; skull base to mid-thigh
F17.291	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, in remission	78816	Positron emission tomography (PET) with concurrently acquired computed tomography (CT) for attenuation correction and anatomical localization imaging; whole body
F17.293	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, with withdrawal		
F17.298	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, with other nicotine-induced disorders		
F17.299	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, with unspecified nicotine-induced disorders		
Z12.2	Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of respiratory organs		
Z72.0	Tobacco use		
Z87.891	Personal history of nicotine dependence		

Related Policies and References

1. HealthCare.gov. (n.d.). *Preventive care benefits for adults*. Retrieved from https://www.healthcare.gov/preventive-care-adults/
2. Peer Literature Review. (n.d.). Policy Reporter. Retrieved from: https://portal.policyreporter.com/login