



February 15, 2019

Dear Colleague:

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and American Lung Association have partnered to improve coverage for low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) lung cancer screenings in state Medicaid programs and build awareness among health care professionals about the lack of state Medicaid coverage for this life-saving screening. We would like to invite your organization to sign a joint letter (attached), which encourages all state Medicaid programs to cover LDCT lung cancer screening for individuals at high risk.

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer of both women and men in the United States. In 2019, an estimated 228,150 new cases of lung cancer are expected to be diagnosed and an estimated 142,670 will lose their lives from lung cancer. Despite the tragic impact that lung cancer continues to cause, far too many state Medicaid programs do not cover LDCT lung cancer screening for individuals at high risk or may offer coverage with significant barriers.

Lung cancer screening with LDCT scans has been shown to save lives. According to the National Cancer Institute's National Lung Cancer Screening Trial, LDCT scans for individuals at high risk were associated with a 20 percent decrease in mortality in those at highest risk of cancer. Those at high risk are defined as individuals ages 55 to 80 years who have a smoking history of 30 pack years and currently smoke or have quit smoking within the last 15 years. Recognizing the value of LDCT screening, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) announced their recommendation on December 30, 2013 that certain high-risk populations be screened for lung cancer using this method – thereby making the screening available for individuals with most private insurance.

Compared to the general public, a higher percentage of individuals on Medicaid smoke cigarettes. Therefore, more Medicaid enrollees are at high risk for developing lung cancer, which makes coverage for this population even more important.

We would greatly appreciate your organization signing onto the attached open letter to state Medicaid programs. To sign your organization onto this letter, please email Emma Will at [Emma.Will@un.org](mailto:Emma.Will@un.org) by March 6, 2019. Please include an electronic copy of your logo as well. We will share a final copy of this letter with you for your records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Albert Rizzo".

Albert Rizzo, MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
American Lung Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "John V. Heymach".

John V. Heymach, MD, PhD  
Chair, Thoracic/Head & Neck Medical Oncology  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center