If you are at high risk for lung cancer and you and your doctor determine that you should be screened, it is important that you receive your low-dose CT scan at a facility with staff who have expertise in lung cancer screening. Ask your doctor to recommend a facility that meets the requirements below or research a facility on your own. Either way, ask these key questions of the facility to ensure you are receiving the best care possible.

Questions to Ask the Screening Facility about low-dose CT scan

Does the facility perform low-dose CT scan with the technical requirements outlined by American College of Radiology (ACR)?

ACR outlines very specific requirements for the technology used to perform the low-dose CT scan. The facility you choose should be familiar with these requirements and abide by them. *If you don’t see a site listed in your zip code or within traveling distance, there are additional sites that perform lung cancer screenings but are not yet accredited by American College of Radiology. In addition to participation in the American College of Radiology Lung Cancer Screening registry, American College of Radiology accredited sites have American College of Radiology CT accreditation in the chest module and their screening protocol meet minimum technical specifications. You should speak to your doctor to determine what best meets your needs.

Can you ensure my scan will be read by a board certified or board eligible radiologist who has read at least 300 chest CT scans in the past three years?

It is important to have a radiologist who is highly trained reading your scans. The doctor should be certified by a professional board and have read at least 300 low-dose CT scan scans in the past three years.

Can you ensure the radiologist reading my scan has documented training in radiology and radiation safety and has the appropriate documented continuing medical education?

By making sure your radiologist or tech is trained in radiology and radiation safety and has received continuing medical education, you can be more confident you will get an accurate read of your scan.
Questions to Ask about Communication

Will a doctor at your facility work with me to review all of the risks and benefits of lung cancer screening to help me decide if it is right for me?

When you clearly understand the risks and benefits of low-dose CT scan, you can work with your doctor to make the best decision for you.

Will a trained healthcare professional clearly explain my results and help me determine next steps?

A trained healthcare professional at the facility or your doctor should take the time to explain the results to you and what they mean.

Notes:  

Questions to Ask about Services and Coverage

Can you tell me if my insurance covers this scan and about any other costs I might incur?

The facility staff should tell you if it is part of your insurance plan’s network, exactly what your insurance plan covers and if you can expect any out-of-pocket costs for the actual scan, or other fees such as follow-up procedures or facility fees. You should double check this information with your insurance company and use the Insurance Checklist to know what questions to ask.
Do you have smoking cessation interventions or referrals available for current smokers?

If you smoke, now it's a great time to quit smoking. The facility you choose should have resources available to assist you with this transition.

Notes: 

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Searching for a Facility Online

ACR has a registry of accredited LDCT Facilities. To find one near you, visit: acraccreditation.org/accredited-facility-search.

For Modality select “Computed Tomography” and for Designation select “Lung Cancer Screening Center.”

For more information on lung cancer screening, visit SavedByTheScan.org.