An Open Letter in Support of Expanded Lung Cancer Screening Recommendation



























Duke Cancer Institute









CANCER









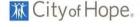












DuPage Medical Group









△ BAPTIST.









































PROMEDICA



MERCY

HEALTH SYSTEM























May 2021

We write in support of the March 2021 update to the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) lung cancer screening recommendation.

Lung cancer is the nation's leading cancer killer in the United States. An estimated 235,760 new cases are expected to be diagnosed in 2021, and 131,880 people are expected to lose their lives. We strongly support lung cancer screening for high-risk populations because we know that early detection improves the chances of survival. Screening is essential to saving lives, particularly because lung cancer is typically found in the later stages and has an overall 5-year survival rate of just 21.8%.

The updated USPSTF recommendation expands the current guidelines to include individuals ages 50 to 80 years who have a 20 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. This recommendation will nearly double the number of individuals eligible for screening and has the potential to save significantly more lives than the current guidelines.

The updated USPSTF recommendation is also an important step forward in addressing racial disparities associated with lung cancer. The expanded criteria will more than double the number of Black and Hispanic people eligible for screening and increase the number of American Indians and Alaskan Natives eligible almost three-fold.

Under the Affordable Care Act, most private insurance plans will need to update their policies to cover screening without cost-sharing for individuals newly eligible under the new guidelines for plan years beginning March 31, 2022. We call on all policymakers to consider updating their coverage guidelines to align with these updated recommendations as soon as possible and remove any financial or other barriers to screening so that all people at high risk for lung cancer can access this lifesaving preventive service.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Academy of Family Physicians
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)
American College of Radiology
American Thoracic Society
American Association for Cancer Research
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
Oncology Nursing Society
Public Health Law Center
Truth Initiative

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation

Adagio Health

Advent Health Waterman Al-Con Counseling, Inc. ALK Positive Support Group

American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative Association of American Cancer Institutes

Baptist Cancer Center

Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center

Beaumont Health

Blackfeet Tobacco Use Prevention Program

Breathe Easy, Grant County Breathe Southern California Brigham and Women's Hospital

Brigham Health

Cancer Support Community

Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.

Carolina Services of North Carolina, LLC

CentraCare

Citizens for Radioactive Radon Reduction

City of Hope

Clifton F. Mountain Foundation for Education &

Research in Lung Cancer

Dignity Health - St. Joseph's Medical Center Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center Merced

Duke Cancer Institute DuPage Medical Group

Dusty Joy Foundation (LiveLung)

Henry Ford Health System

Hillsdale Hospital

ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network Indiana University Health Melvin and Bren Simon

Cancer Center

Inova Schar Cancer Institute Kaiser Permanente Colorado

Kindred Healthcare

Korman Respiratory Institute at Thomas Jefferson

University KRAS Kickers

LifeLong Medical Care

Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center

Lung Cancer Circle of Hope Lung Cancer Connection

Lung Cancer Foundation of America

Lung Cancer Initiative

Lung Cancer Research Foundation

Maine Lung Cancer Coalition

Mary Bird Perkins-Our Lady of the Lake

Cancer Center

Mass General Brigham

Massachusetts General Hospital Mercy Health Mclees Clinic

MET Crusaders Cancer Advocacy Group

Metropolitan YMCAs of Mississippi

MeVis Medical Solutions AG

MidMichigan Health

Missouri Academy of Family Physicians

Norton Pulmonary Specialists Oklahoma Hospital Association

Paoli Hospital

Patient Advocate Foundation and SelfMade

Health Network

Primary Care Collaborative
ProMedica Cancer Institute
Respiratory Health Association
Rush University System for Health

Saint Alphonsus RMC

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System

Siteman Cancer Center

Smoking Cessation Leadership Center Society for Public Health Education Society of Thoracic Radiology

The Fleischner Society

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Tobacco Free Alliance of Virginia University of Kansas Cancer Center University of Louisville School of Medicine University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

University of Minnesota Health Fairview
University of Virginia Cancer Center
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine

and Public Health Center for Tobacco

Research and Intervention Upstage Lung Cancer.org

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center VCU Massey Cancer Center

WVU Cancer Institute