Low Dose CT for Lung Cancer Screening

By Adam Volluz, Radiology Manager

In 2014, 215,951 people in the United States were diagnosed with lung cancer. Nearly 75% of those diagnosed died from the condition. These statistics rank lung cancer as the number one leading cause of cancer death and the second most diagnosed cancer in both men and women in the United States.

Ferry County Public Hospital offers Low Dose Lung Cancer Screening to aid in the early detection of lung cancer. Early detection of lung cancer has proven to reduce the mortality rate by 20%. If you are interested in this screening test, you can discuss with your medical provider if it is right for you. Most insurance companies, if you meet the following criteria, will cover this test at no cost to you.

Who Should Be Screened?
- People 55-77 years of age.
- They're asymptomatic (they don't have signs or symptoms of lung cancer).
- They're either a current smoker or have quit smoking within the last 15 years.
- They have a tobacco smoking history of at least 30 "pack years" (an average of one pack a day for 30 years).
- They get a written order from their physician or qualified non-physician practitioner.

*You must meet all of the above conditions to qualify.

*Note: Before your first lung cancer screening, you'll need to schedule an appointment with your doctor to discuss the benefits and risks of lung cancer screening. You and your doctor can decide whether lung cancer screening is right for you.

For those who do not qualify for the CT screening test, talk to your doctor about EarlyCDT®-Lung. This is a simple blood test to aid in the risk assessment and early detection of lung cancer in high-risk patients and to stratify indeterminate pulmonary nodules for the risk of malignancy.

If you have any questions about Low Dose CT for Lung Cancer Screening, you can call Adam Volluz at 509-775-8233.

Prior Hospital Happenings available at http://www.fcphd.org/news.html.

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