

BTMed Early Lung Cancer Detection Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the BTMed Early Lung Cancer Detection Program?

- BTMed offers annual screening for lung cancer to workers in our program who have specific risk factors for lung cancer.
- Studies show that low dose CT scans can find lung cancer early, when treatment is most effective.
- You may be eligible to participate in this screening program. If you join this program, you should plan to have a low dose CT scan once a year.
- For any questions, please contact us at (888) 464-0009.

What is the purpose of the BTMed Early Lung Cancer Detection program?

- The purpose is to detect lung cancer as early as possible.
- BTMed partners with lung cancer screening Centers of Excellence across the country to make sure the best medical care is available if a suspicious area is found.
- BTMed also evaluates the safety and effectiveness of this program and the risks and benefits to workers who participate.

Why are you contacting me about this program?

- You worked at a Department of Energy site.
- Your medical record showed you might have increased risk for lung cancer. This is based on your age, smoking history and past work exposures.
- At your last exam, you seemed healthy enough to be treated, if screening finds lung cancer.

How effective is lung cancer screening at preventing death from lung cancer?

- CT lung screening can lower the risk of death from lung cancer by 20% in high risk people.
- Even though low-dose CT scanning is the most effective screening method for detecting cancer early, it may not detect all cancers at an early stage.
- Lung cancer screening prevents death by finding early cancers when they can still be treated. It does NOT PREVENT cancer. The best way to prevent cancer is to quit smoking.

What if I already have symptoms?

- Screening is used to find cancer that is not causing symptoms yet. If you have symptoms that may mean cancer or an infection in the lungs, then you need a medical evaluation. These symptoms include:
 - Fevers
 - Chest pain
 - New cough or one that does not go away
 - Shortness of breath
 - Coughing up blood
 - Weight loss that is unexplained

- Screening may be appropriate if you have chronic mild lung symptoms related to obstructive or restrictive lung disease.
- Screening would not be make sense if you are very ill with any medical condition that would make it dangerous for you to undergo treatment for early lung cancer if it were found on screening.

What does the program pay for? Are there any out-of-pocket expense?

- The BTMed program pays for the low-dose CT scan and the radiologist reviewing the image. There are no out-of-pocket expenses to you for this service.
- If the scan identifies an abnormal finding, our program does not pay for medical evaluation, additional diagnostic tests or treatments. We will help you find a doctor if you need that help.

What happens next if I decide to sign up?

- We will schedule a low-dose CT scan of the chest for you at the closest lung cancer screening Center of Excellence partnering with BTMed.
- For the scan, you will need to lie down in the scanner and hold your breath for 15 to 20 seconds. In total, the procedure takes approximately 5 minutes. You may request a digital copy of your scan.
- A board-certified radiologist will review your scan and write a report of the findings.
- The BTMed nurse and doctor will review the radiologist's report and send you a letter explaining the results and recommendations.

How soon should I expect the results?

- You should receive a letter with the results within 2 weeks. A BTMed nurse will contact you by phone if there are any findings that need to be addressed urgently.
- Call 1-888-464-0009 if you have any questions about the results.

What could the CT scan show? What happens if the scan is not normal?

- CT scan could show:
 - Normal or minimal findings. Next step would be repeat scan in 12 months.
 - Possible lung infection. We will refer you to your personal doctor for treatment, and after treatment, we will ask you to come back for a repeat CT scan.
 - One or more small nodules. If new, we will ask you to come back in 3-6 months for a follow-up CT scan, which BTMed will pay for. If the nodules stay the same in repeat scans, we will schedule you for a repeat exam in a year.
 - Nodules or other finding suspicious for lung cancer:
 - A committee of specialists at the lung cancer screening center will review your scan.
 - We will notify you of their recommendations and help coordinate the recommended follow-up evaluation.
 - A serious finding other than lung cancer. We will refer you to your personal doctor for further evaluation and treatment.
 - Evidence of lung damage related to your work exposures at the DOE. We will advise you about options for filing a claim.

What are the risks to low-dose CT lung screening?

- Radiation exposure.
 - Low-dose CT scans have more radiation than a chest x-ray, but less than a standard CT scan.
 - Research shows the benefits of using low-dose CT scanning to detect early lung cancer in people at increased risk are stronger than the minimal radiation risk from the procedure.
- False Positive. The CT scan may show findings that are thought to be dangerous but turn out not to be. Because of the findings on CT scan, the doctors may perform unnecessary biopsy or additional invasive tests.
- False Negative. No test, including low-dose CT lung screening, is perfect. It is possible the screening may miss diseases including cancer.
- Emotional distress. You may feel temporary anxiety if you are asked to come back for an additional scan. Our staff can help you deal with such issues.
- Violation of confidentiality. We will guard your private medical information and not release it without your consent.
- Harm to fetus: If possibly pregnant, please inform the study so imaging can be postponed until there is no longer a concern you may be pregnant as CT scans could potentially harm a fetus.

What are the possible benefits?

- Annual screening for people at risk for lung cancer increases the chance of finding a small cancer at its earliest stage. Early cancer is easier to treat and often cure.
- The CT scan may detect other (non-cancer) conditions that need treatment.
- The CT scan may identify specific conditions that are covered by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and/or workers' compensation. More information on EEOICPA can be found online at <http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/> or by calling our office at 1-888-464-0009.

Who will be able to see my results?

- The clinical team at the lung cancer screening center of excellence and the BTMed medical and research team members will see your medical information.
- Some of our lung cancer screening center partners share data with a national registry program for research and quality improvement purposes. If you are referred to one of these programs, their staff will discuss this data sharing with you, and seek your written consent to share such information. You may decide NOT to share your information with this registry and still get screening.

Can I leave after joining the program?

- You can leave the program at any time. There are no penalties for leaving the program. If you choose to leave notify BTMed at 1-888-464-0009.
- We will notify you that it is time to stop screening you when you reach the age when screening is no longer recommended, or if there are clinical reasons to stop screening.
- BTMed or the sponsor may end this program at any time, and we will notify you of this in writing. If the program ends, all of your medical information will be provided to you and your doctor upon your request.
- If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may call the Central DOE Institutional Review Board at 865-574-4359.