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## Lung Screening / Follow-Up CT Tech Cheat Sheet

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- A patient must meet ALL of the following requirements to qualify for lung cancer screening:
  - Patient must be 50-77 years of age (for Medicare) or 50-80 years of age (for Commercial or self-pay).
  - Patient must have at least 20 pack year cigarette smoking history.
  - Patient must be a current cigarette smoker or have quit smoking no more than 15 years ago.
  - Patient must be free of any symptoms of possible lung cancer or infection.
- A patient must smoke cigarettes. Patients with only exposure to second hand cigarette smoke or those that only smoke cigars or marijuana do not qualify for screening CT.
- A former smoker no longer qualifies for screening CT once he/she has reached 15 years of non smoking.
- Symptoms of possible lung cancer or infection include: a CHANGE in normal cough or shortness of breath; coughing up blood; significant chest pain; unintentional weight loss or fever. A change means the patient's SOB/cough is different than it normally is (i.e. many smokers have daily SOB and cough).
- If a patient does not qualify for screening CT. Change the order to CT chest w/o and use the low-dose CT protocol from the protocol book.

- **Calculating Pack Years:**

To calculate the number of pack years, take the number of packs per day the patient smokes/smoked and multiply by the number of years the patient smoked.

There are 20 cigarettes in 1 pack.

*Example 1 :* Patient smokes 1 pack per day for 40 years -  $1 \times 40 = 40$  pack years.

*Example 2 :* Patient smokes 2 pack per day for 10 years -  $2 \times 10 = 20$  pack years.

*Example 3 :* Patient smokes 5 cigarettes per day for 50 years - There are 20 cigarettes in 1 pack. The patient smokes 5 cigarettes per day. That's 5 divided by 20 or 0.25 packs per day -  $0.25 \times 50 = 12.5$  pack years.

*Example 4 :* Patient smokes 30 cigarettes per day for 50 years - There are 20 cigarettes in 1 pack. The patient smokes 30 cigarettes per day. That's 30 divided by 20 or 1.5 packs per day -  $1.5 \times 50 = 75$  pack years.

*Example 5 :* Patient smokes 2 cigars per day for 40 years. No pack years. Cigars don't qualify.

*Example 6 :* Patient has been exposed to second hand smoke for 30 years. No pack years. Second hand smoke doesn't qualify.