

Call

SCHEDULE A SCREENING FOR PEACE OF MIND

To schedule a screening or for more information, call **785-452-7038** or **785-452-7562**. Cost for LDCT screenings is only \$299, which may or may not be covered by personal health insurance. If not, the cost is minimal, considering the peace of mind it can offer. Individuals may self-refer for their LDCT lung cancer screening or be referred by a primary care physician.



This Screening Saves Lives

Lung cancer screening finds cancer when it's easier to treat **BY BETH VINSON**

S smokers live with the fear that they may someday hear the words, "You have lung cancer." After all, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality in the United States. In fact, more people die of lung cancer than of colon, breast and prostate cancers combined, according to the American Lung Association. This is in part because lung cancer, unlike colon, breast and prostate cancers, which are often identified through routine screening, is generally not detected until it's in its advanced stages.

The good news is that low-dose CT (LDCT) lung cancer screenings are now available at Salina Regional Health Center. Having the peace of mind that comes from knowing they don't have lung cancer makes this screening beneficial to those who qualify. LDCT screenings can detect lung cancer in its early stages, before any symptoms are noticeable. The sooner cancer is found and treated, the greater a patient's chance of survival.

"These screenings can save lives for certain high-risk patients, especially long-term

smokers," says Salina Regional oncologist Jeffrey Geitz, MD. "Without LDCT lung screenings, lung cancer is usually not found until a person develops symptoms. At that time, the cancer is much harder to treat."

Studies have shown that LDCT lung screenings can lower the risk of death from lung cancer by 20 percent in people who are at high risk.

LDCT lung screening is one of the easiest screening exams you can have. The exam takes less than 10 seconds. No medications are given, and no needles are used. You can eat before and after the exam. You must, however, be able to hold your breath for at least six seconds while the chest scan is taken.

According to statistics, lung cancer is the No. 1 "death by cancer" in Saline County (2000-2010). "This new screening is so important to the health of many people in our community," says Melanie Leepers, cancer program manager and clinical trials nurse at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center. "We are so fortunate to have this type of equipment to do this screening right here in Salina." ■

LDCT SCREENING CRITERIA

You may qualify for an LDCT lung screening if you are in one of these two categories.

Category 1

- You are between 55 and 74 years old.
- You are currently a smoker or have quit within the past 15 years.
- You have smoked at least a pack of cigarettes a day for 30+ years.

Category 2

- You are between 50 and 74 years old.
- You have smoked at least a pack of cigarettes a day for 20+ years.
- You have one additional lung cancer risk factor* (not to include secondhand smoke exposure).

*Risk factors include having cancer in the past, emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis, a family history of lung cancer, or exposure to certain substances (including asbestos, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, diesel fumes, nickel, radon, silica and uranium).

