

# Medicare proposes covering lung cancer screening

November 10 2014, by Lauran Neergaard

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Medicare may soon begin paying for scans to detect lung cancer in certain current or former heavy smokers.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Monday issued a long-awaited proposal to begin covering the screening for beneficiaries whose doctors agree meet the criteria.

A major study found low-dose CT scans of the lungs of people at especially high risk could cut their chances of dying from [lung cancer](#) by 20 percent. Last December, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommended the test for certain people who smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for 30 years, or the equivalent, paving the way for private insurance coverage.

Medicare had to decide separately whether to cover the screening. A final decision is due in February.

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