

Panel backs lung cancer screening for some smokers

29 July 2013, by Marilyn Marchione

Government advisers have endorsed lung cancer screening for the first time. They say certain current and former heavy smokers should get annual CT scans, a type of X-ray, to cut their chances of dying of the disease.

Monday's advice by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is a draft recommendation. If it becomes final as expected, it would clear the way for insurers to cover the scans. The panel recommends them for people ages 55 through 79 who smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for 30 years or the equivalent, such as two packs a day for 15 years.

Whether screening would help younger or lighter smokers is not known, so scans aren't advised for them. Scans also aren't advised for people who quit at least 15 years ago.

© 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

APA citation: Panel backs lung cancer screening for some smokers (2013, July 29) retrieved 22 September 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-07-panel-lung-cancer-screening-smokers.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.