Participation in the West Virginia Lung Cancer Screening Project

During the next few weeks, UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. (UniCare) will call members as part of the West Virginia Lung Cancer Screening Project. Members who meet the criteria can work with their PCP to schedule an appointment for a referral to this program.

The use of low-dose, noncontrast spiral (helical) multidetector CT imaging (scan) as a screening technique for lung cancer is considered medically necessary when used to screen for lung cancer on certain high-risk individuals when all of the following criteria are met:

- Individual has no signs or symptoms suggestive of underlying lung cancer, which includes but is not limited to the following:
  - Unexplained cough
  - Hemoptysis
  - Unexplained weight loss of more than 15 pounds in the past year
- Individual is between 55 and 80 years of age.
- There is at least a 30-pack-a-year history of cigarette smoking.
  - If a former smoker — The member quit smoking within the previous 15 years.

Screening will occur no more often than annually.

The low-dose CT scan (LDCT, procedure code G0297) for lung cancer screening requires prior authorization (PA). If you have a UniCare member who meets the above-listed requirements, please request PA via one of the following methods:

- Availity Portal: [https://www.availity.com](https://www.availity.com)
- Fax: 1-855-402-6983
- Phone: 1-866-655-7423

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, call the Customer Care Center at 1-800-782-0095.

Attachment: West Virginia Lung Cancer Screening Project Notice
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?
- To decrease lung cancer mortality and increase the early diagnosis of lung cancer in West Virginia.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?
- Early detection saves lives.
- Almost 27% of adults in WV smoke.
- Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer.
- About 80% of lung cancer deaths are caused by smoking, and many others are caused by exposure to secondhand smoke.
- WV has a higher rate of lung cancer than the nation as a whole.
- Cancer is the leading cause of death in WV.
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the state.

WHO SHOULD GET SCREENED FOR LUNG CANCER?
Yearly low-dose computed tomography (CT) is recommended for people who:
- are 55 to 80 years old, and
- have a 30 pack-year* smoking history, and
- are either current smokers or who have quit in the past 15 years

*pack-year = packs a day X number of years smoking (2 packs a day x 15 years smoking = 30 pack years)

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?
- Encourage providers to refer their eligible patients to lung cancer screening and smoking cessation options.
- Provide education and outreach about lung cancer screening and case management services.
- Refer all WV lung cancer patients to the West Virginia Cancer CareLine (operated by Patient Advocate Foundation) at 1-866-684-2479, developed specifically for the needs of WV lung cancer patients.

WHEN WILL WE DO THIS?
- This is a three-year project beginning March 2016.
- Year one is a targeted lung cancer screening referral approach to the CoventryCares Medicaid population.
- Years two and three will expand to the rest of West Virginia’s Medicaid population with the potential to expand to other partners.
- Community and provider education will be offered during the entire project period.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?
- Jenny Ostien, MS
  Project Manager
  304-293-2370
  jostien@hsc.wvu.edu
- Amie Muraski
  Project Coordinator
  304-293-2370
  amie.muraski@hsc.wvu.edu

Yearly screening can save lives!