MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT
LUNG CANCER SCREENING

"I feel fine. I don't need to be tested."

Screening is a test specifically for those without any symptoms. People with lung cancer typically do not feel anything or have symptoms until the cancer has spread. If you are in a high risk group, consider screening even if you feel in perfect health.

"I've heard that things that aren't cancer show up on the test and that it can be confusing. Doesn't that mean I shouldn't trust the test?"

Many adults have spots on their lungs that are not cancer, regardless of whether they are at high risk for lung cancer or not. But there are guidelines in place to help doctors determine if a spot is more likely to be cancer and what to do about it.

"I don't want to get screened because I don't want extra radiation exposure."

This is a good issue to discuss with your doctor, but the benefit of screening for someone at high risk outweighs the small risks that come from low levels of radiation exposure.

"I quit smoking years ago so I don't have to worry about lung cancer."

While quitting smoking is one of the most important things you have done for your health, your risk of lung cancer is still higher than that of someone who has never smoked. Think about what motivated you to quit smoking in the first place. Screening is an important part of continuing to take care of your health.

"Does insurance cover lung cancer screening?"

For those who fit high risk criteria, most insurance plans and Medicare cover lung cancer screening with no co-pays or deductibles.