

CT Lung Cancer Screening

Patient Information

Leongatha Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging

Early detection is key

Leongatha Memorial Hospital is proud to offer Lung Cancer Screening as part of the Australian Government's new National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP).

It is a life-saving initiative to reduce deaths from lung cancer through early detection. Screening is free for eligible patients, and available at all Imaging Associates clinics.

Why Lung Cancer Screening Matters?

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Australia, responsible for more deaths than breast and prostate cancers combined.

Sadly, over 40% of lung cancer diagnoses occur at Stage IV, when curative treatment is often no longer an option. Only one in four people survive five years beyond diagnosis.

International research has shown that screening with a low-dose CT scan can

detect up to 70% of lung cancers at an early stage, often before symptoms appear. Early detection leads to better outcomes, more treatment options, and a significantly higher chance of survival.

Who is eligible for screening?

You may be eligible for the National Lung Cancer Screening Program if you:

- Are aged 50 to 70 years
- Are asymptomatic
- Is a current smoker, or have quit in the last 10 years?
- Have a history of heavy smoking* (see definition below)

Your GP will assess your eligibility and provide a request for you to visit the Medical Imaging Department at the Leongatha Hospital for a low dose CT chest scan.

How screening works?

1. Visit your GP – who check if you meet the eligibility criteria and provide a request form, if you are eligible.
2. Contact Leongatha Hospital Medical Imaging, (03) 5667 5579 or email, medical.imaging@gshs.com.au to book your scan.

3. We provide fully Medicare-funded (bulk billed) low-dose CT scans for eligible patients under the program. There is no out-of-pocket cost for eligible patients.

4. Follow up – An expert respiratory radiologist will review your results and send them to your GP. The National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR) will enrol you and send reminders when it's time to screen again.

5. If your scan shows no signs of concern, you'll be invited to screen again in two years. If any abnormalities are found, your GP will guide you through the appropriate next steps.

Why choose Leongatha Hospital for Lung Cancer Screening CT scan?

The Leongatha Hospital lung cancer screening service, is designed to deliver precise, diagnostic accuracy and support for patients and requesting Doctors:

- *Expert Respiratory Radiologists*
Our respiratory radiologist team use the latest low-dose CT scanners with AI-assisted, diagnostic tools to deliver highly accurate, consistent reports with clear clinical recommendations.

- *Purpose-Built Imaging Platform*

We use an integrated platform that enables comparison with any prior imaging, this is critical for tracking subtle lung changes.

- *State-of-the-art low-dose CT technology*
Delivering high image quality with minimal radiation exposure
- *Fast reporting and clear communication*
supporting timely clinical decision-making
- *Dedicated Team*
Supporting patients and clinical queries from referring doctors.

What do you need to know about your Lung Cancer Screen?

What is the definition of 'heavy smoking'? A heavy smoker is defined in "pack-years".

Pack-years are calculated by multiplying the number of years the person has smoked by the number of packs of cigarettes smoked per day.

For example, 1 pack-year is equal to smoking 1 pack of cigarettes per day for 1 year. For the purposes of this calculation, 1 pack is equal to 20 cigarettes.

A 30 pack-year is equal to smoking 1 pack of cigarettes (20 cigarettes) per day for 30 years, or 2 packs per day for 15 years.

What should I expect in my Lung Cancer Screening Scan?

For the scan, you will lie down on a table with your arms above your head while the low-dose CT scanner takes images of your chest.

The scan doesn't involve any needles or other procedures. Your appointment will usually take around 10 to 15 minutes.

When can I expect my doctor to receive the results?

The report from our radiologist will be forwarded to your doctor as soon as possible.

If there are any urgent findings, a radiologist will notify your referring doctor immediately and your doctor will contact you to discuss your results.

Depending on the findings of the scan, further imaging may be required. Your doctor will discuss this with you.



Early detection can save lives. If you or someone you know is eligible, speak to your GP today.

This information was updated and reviewed January 2026

What do I need to bring?

- Request from your doctor. Leongatha Hospital accepts all medical imaging requests, even if written or printed on another radiology company's form.
- Medicare card (if applicable)
- Healthcare card/Pension card/Student card (if applicable)
- Previous x-rays/scans (if applicable)

Fees and billing

Provided you are eligible, the lung cancer screening scan is completely bulk-billed with no out-of-pocket cost to you.

What do we need to know?

Medications

Please advise us of any medications you are taking. They may affect the timing of your appointment.

Allergies

Please advise us of any allergies.

Any questions please contact us:

Phone: (03) 5667 5579

Email: medical.imaging@gshs.com.au

Leongatha Memorial Hospital

66 Koonwarra Rd, Leongatha



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