

## Cancer Institute No-Cost Lung Cancer Screenings



**Saint Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Mo., a regional leader in the battle against cancer, has introduced no-cost quarterly lung cancer screenings to the community.**

Lung cancer is the second-most diagnosed cancer in both men and women, and is the leading cause of cancer deaths (accounting for 30 percent) in the country, killing more than 150,000 people each year, according to the American Lung Association. It also has a five-year survival rate of less than 16 percent, substantially lower than other major cancers such as breast, colon and prostate cancer.

After completing a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) with collaboration from SoutheastHEALTH in 2013 and seeing the need, Saint Francis' Cancer Institute quickly began implementing free lung cancer screenings each quarter.

The Medical Center is the first in the area to offer this beneficial health exam, which typically costs \$300 to \$500 and is not always covered by health insurance or Medicare, to its patients. Lung cancer screenings are made possible by Saint Francis Foundation, with the goal of earlier detection at more treatable stages for better overall outcomes. (Studies have shown that a CT scan reduces lung cancer deaths among older heavy smokers by 20 percent.)

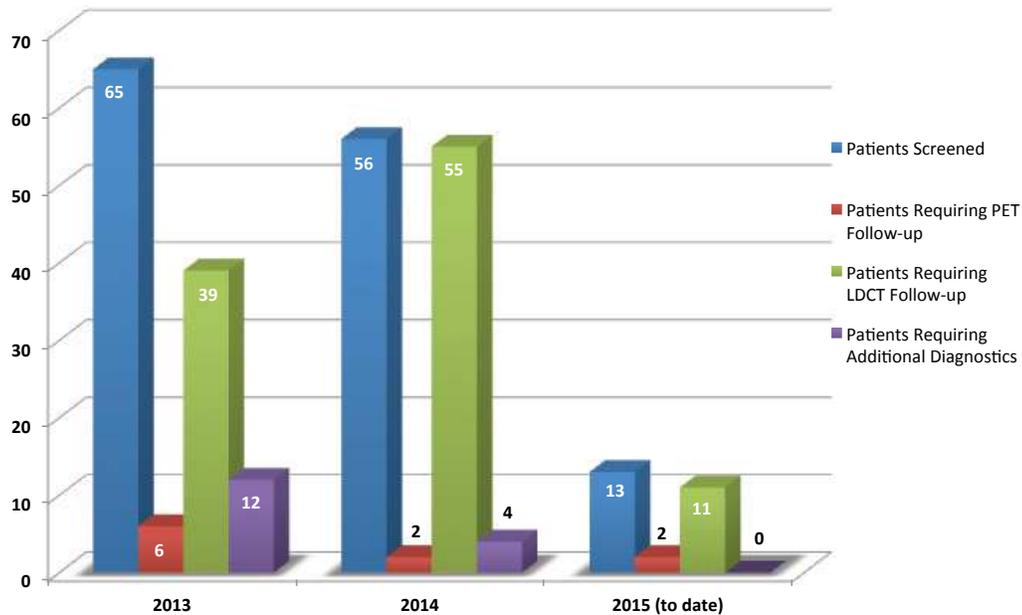
The lung cancer screening offering, available to people ages 50-74 who are heavy smokers, former smokers or at high risk, has been well-received since its inception, and appointments fill up quickly. Typically, there is a preregistration step that creates a waiting list for the next round of screenings the following quarter. Screenings are communicated to area residents on the Medical Center's website and digital outdoor boards, in print ads and fliers, and on local TV news stations' website web banners.

### Lung Screening Results

The graphic on the next page represents the number of people who have received lung cancer screenings since their inception in April 2013. Based on initial screening data, a significant number of patients needed follow-up screenings such as PET scans, low-dose CT scans or other additional diagnostic workups.

Without this free screening, lung cancer and other health issues, including aortic aneurysms and breast cancer, would have gone undetected.

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### Easy Process, Expert Assessment

- When a potential patient calls Saint Francis Medical Center’s Consumer Call Center to register, they are first prescreened to see if they qualify.
- If they do, an initial CT scan is performed. Following the scan, James Borders, MD, radiologist and Olivia Aranha, MD, PhD, medical oncologist/hematologist at Saint Francis, both review the CT screening, collaborate on its findings and then communicate results to patients free of charge.
- Any necessary follow-up care is then billed to the patient’s insurance.

### MD Anderson Cancer Network® Affiliation

Located in Houston, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is one of the world’s most respected centers devoted exclusively to cancer care, research, education and prevention. A program of MD Anderson Cancer Center, MD Anderson Cancer Network® affiliates with other oncology providers – like Saint Francis – to promote quality management and best practices in cancer care. Saint Francis is the only facility in Missouri selected to be an MD Anderson Cancer Network-certified member hospital.

Through this unique affiliation, Saint Francis is raising the level of cancer care for patients by using a multidisciplinary team approach and offering powerful cancer-fighting resources not available elsewhere in the region. Patients are able to benefit from the latest advances, decades of research and proven best practices in cancer care, all of which help contribute to the best possible outcomes.

