Schedule your appointment with Charlotte Radiology.
CT lung cancer screenings do require a physician’s order, so ask for a referral to Charlotte Radiology. Our physicians are subspecialized in body imaging, working hand-in-hand with your physician to diagnose and treat disease. Appointments are scheduled Monday through Friday. Please arrive 15 minutes early to allow time for registration.

Carolinas Imaging Services (outpatient centers)
704.442.4390

Atrium Health Facilities
704.512.2060

Visit CharlotteRadiology.com for more information on procedures, technology, our subspecialized physicians and more.
CT Lung Cancer Screening
Lung cancer kills more people each year than breast, colon and prostate cancers combined. Many environmental factors, like exposure to asbestos, can increase your risk of lung cancer, but smoking and second-hand smoke pose the greatest risks. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control suggest that exposure to second-hand smoke can increase a person’s likelihood of developing lung cancer by 20 – 30%.

Catching lung cancer early increases treatment options, improves outcomes and boosts survival rates. But only 16% of lung cancers are diagnosed at their earliest, most curable stages. According to the National Cancer Institute’s lung screening trial, the use of CT screenings over chest X-rays has reduced lung cancer deaths by 20% in just five years. Charlotte Radiology is proud to offer CT lung cancer screenings, able to detect lung cancer before it becomes symptomatic.

What is CT lung cancer screening?
CT lung cancer screening is a Helical CT scan that evaluates the lungs for signs of cancer that may not be visible on a standard chest X-ray. This advanced CT scan can detect very small nodules, dramatically improving the likelihood of survival. If a nodule is detected, a follow-up CT scan may be indicated.

CT lung screening does involve radiation exposure, but the value received from an accurate diagnosis far outweighs any risk. The effective radiation dose from this procedure is about the same as the average person receives from background radiation in 1.5 years.

What should I expect during the study?
CT lung cancer scans are quick and easy and require no preparation or contrast studies. You will be asked to lie on your back on a table with arms extended overhead. A pillow will be provided to ensure you are comfortable. As the technologist positions you for the scan, they will provide you with simple instructions. The actual scan takes less than 30 seconds, and you will only hold your breath for 15 – 20 seconds.

Results
A report will be sent to your physician within 24 – 48 hours. Your physician will then contact you to discuss your results.

NEGATIVE EXAMS: If your results are normal, your physician may choose to recommend a repeat study in one year. Please understand that a negative study does not ensure that cancers will not develop in the future, and regular follow-up with your physician is recommended.

POSITIVE EXAMS: Scans regularly find nodules that are “indeterminate” or require follow-up testing. Many small nodules are benign and result from prior infections; however, to ensure that no cancer cells are present, follow-up scans may be required, sometimes over the course of several years. For larger or more suspicious nodules, additional testing may be recommended (diagnostic CT scans, PET/CT scans or biopsy). Regardless of the size or number of nodules, if follow-up is recommended, it is very important to return for those tests.

Who needs a CT lung cancer screening?
Experts recommend CT lung cancer screenings for smokers and former smokers between the ages of 55 and 77 with a 30 pack-year smoking history. Pack-year history is calculated by multiplying the number of years smoking by the number of packs per day (one pack a day for 30 years, two packs a day for 15 years, three packs a day for 10 years).

Cost & Insurance Coverage
Most insurance providers are now providing coverage for CT lung cancer screening for patients who meet the criteria. To find out if your insurance is covering the study, please call 704-442-4390.