



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 19, 2020

### **Free Lung Cancer Screening Offered Saturday, November 14 in East Syracuse and Auburn**

East Syracuse, NY - With November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month, [Hematology/Oncology Associates of CNY](#) and [CRA Medical Imaging](#) are offering FREE lung cancer screenings on Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in two locations:

- HOACNY Office, 5008 Brittonfield Parkway, Easy Syracuse, NY 13057
- Diagnostic Imaging Center, 37 West Garden Street, Auburn, NY 13021

Appointments are required by calling (315) 472-7504. Walk-ins are not allowed. Each patient will require a COVID-19 precautionary screening and must comply with safety protocols, including wearing a mask.

#### **Who qualifies for free screening?**

Our free Lung Cancer Screening is available for people at high risk for lung cancer, meaning they must meet all the following criteria:

- Are 55 to 80 years old
- Are currently smoking or have quit within the last 15 years
- Have a history of heavy smoking such as:
  - 1 pack of cigarettes per day for 30 years
  - 2 packs of cigarettes per day for 15 years
  - 3 packs of cigarettes a day for 7.5 years.

#### **What does the screening involve?**

The only recommended screening test for lung cancer is low-dose computed tomography (also called a low-dose CT scan, or LDCT). During an LDCT scan, the patient lies on a table and the CT scanner uses a small amount of radiation to make detailed 3-D images of their lungs. The scan only takes a few minutes and is not painful. While this scan will expose you to a low-dose of radiation, LDCT uses 75% less radiation than a traditional CT scan and shows more detail than a standard chest X-ray.

#### **Why get screened?**

“Lung cancer screening is a regular preventive health check, like a mammogram or a colonoscopy, and most people who get screened do not have cancer” explains Nicole Taylor, DO, from CRA Medical Imaging. “The low-dose CT checks your lungs while you are healthy and looks for any changes from year to year. With that information we can intervene with any necessary medical care as soon as possible.”

#### **What happens after the screening?**

All screening patients will be encouraged to share results with their primary care physician. With permission, the HOACNY and CRA Imaging staff can directly send a patient’s results to any physician they choose.

“A lung cancer screening may find nothing, or it may find something before a person has any symptoms,” explains Aref Agheli, MD, from HOACNY. “The value of annual lung screenings is the opportunity to find unusual results in an early stage, when survival rates are much higher.”

Based on results, patients are welcome, but not required, to seek follow-up care with a HOACNY physician and Thoracic Nurse Navigator (TNN). The TNN supports the care of any lung disease patient from pre-diagnosis through all phases of treatment. She works with patients and their families to help overcome healthcare system barriers and facilitate access to quality medical and psychosocial care. The TNN can also facilitate referrals for smoking cessation programs at HOACNY.

“TNN is just one of the ways we continually evaluate and address needs and changes in the healthcare landscape to provide the best medical care,” states Agheli. “To further ensure our patients with lung disease and cancer receive the highest level of care, David Wormuth, MD, a board-certified thoracic surgeon, recently joined our family of physicians.

According to Drs. Taylor and Agheli, joining to offer this free screening during Lung Cancer Awareness Month is evidence of HOACNY’s and CRA’s commitment to the health of their community. “We want to increase knowledge of lung cancer treatment options and smoking cessation programs, to ultimately save lives,” adds Agheli.

#### **About HOACNY**

Hematology/Oncology Associates of CNY was established in 1982 with a vision to serve the community by providing the highest level of quality care to patients dealing with cancer and blood disorders. With locations in Auburn, Camillus, East Syracuse and Syracuse, HOA continues that vision with a multi-faceted team dedicated to holistic, patient-centered care. The only cancer practice in CNY Certified for Quality by The American Society of Clinical Oncology, HOACNY also serves as an oncology medical home.

#### **About CRA Medical Imaging**

CRA Medical Imaging (CRA) is one of the largest radiology groups in Central New York providing imaging services and procedures in a range of specialties. Continually investing in the latest technologies, CRA offers care in Syracuse, Auburn, Fulton, Hamilton and Oswego with certified and experienced staff. All CRA facilities are accredited by the American College of Radiology in Mammography, Computed Tomography (CT), Nuclear Medicine and digital PET/CT, providing patients a higher standard of imaging quality, care, and radiation dose protection.

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