MedChi
The Maryland State Medical Society

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NOVEMBER IS LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

MedChi Emphasizes Importance of Lung Cancer Prevention, Screening and Early Detection

BALTIMORE, November 18, 2026 – According to the American Lung Association, lung cancer accounts for more than 1 in 5 cancer deaths in Maryland and remains the leading cause of death in Maryland. Talk to your physician about risk factors for lung cancer and get screening as early as possible. Do not wait for symptoms. Early detection usually means better treatment options and better outcomes.

"Physicians play a critical role in discussing screening eligibility, identifying risk factors and helping patients access timely care." said MedChi President, Dr. James M. Williams. "One important point to include is that someone does not need to have symptoms to benefit from lung cancer screening."

While lung cancer does not always cause symptoms in early stages, it is important to recognize possible symptoms if they are present. Symptoms can range from chest pain or discomfort, a cough that doesn't go away or gets worse over time, coughing up blood, trouble breathing, loss of appetite, and weight loss for no known reason to name a few. If you experience these symptoms go to a healthcare provider as quickly as possible.

As scary as a cancer diagnosis can be, lung cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer. Smoking tobacco products is the primary cause of lung cancer, so quitting or not starting to begin with is the best way to reduce your risk of lung cancer. It is also best to avoid secondhand smoke and limit exposure to workplace carcinogens as these can both increase someone's chances of developing lung cancer.

About MedChi
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.