



JANUARY IS NATIONAL
RADON ACTION
MONTH



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
HUGO WALL SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Environmental Finance Center

WHAT ACTION WILL YOU TAKE?

Patient Action Discussion Guide for Physicians

Anyone can get lung cancer; in fact, about 1 in 7 individuals who do develop lung cancer have never smoked. The top two causes of lung cancer are **smoking** and **radon** exposure.

We cannot undo risks associated with past smoking and radon exposure, but there are some steps we can take to reduce risk going forward. To maximize risk reductions:

- ✓ **Test your home for radon and remediate if necessary.**
- ✓ **AND stop smoking if you smoke.**

Doing these together is more beneficial than one or the other alone.

Patient History Taking Dialogue

Have you tested your home for radon?

- **If no**, Recommended action: Either obtain a do-it-yourself radon test kit or hire a radon professional to test the home to assess radon gas concentrations.
- **If yes...**

Was the radon test result in your home at or above 4 pCi/L?

*The current EPA recommended reduction level is **4 picocuries of radon per liter of air (pCi/L)**. Technically, there is no safe level of radon exposure as all exposure carries some risk; however, the EPA action level is the guideline used in the U.S.*

- **If no**, it is suggested you retest your home's living spaces periodically, such as every 5 years or after any major home renovation or change to the heating or cooling system of the home.
- **If yes**, if your test result is above **8 pCi/L**, it is suggested that you install a mitigation system. At levels between **2 pCi/L** and **8 pCi/L** it is suggested that you make another radon measurement to improve the reliability of the estimate for your long-term radon exposure. You can take another short-term screening test. Or, another option at these levels is a long-term radon measurement in your highly occupied living space.

Have you taken steps to reduce your home radon level to acceptable levels?

- **If no**, Recommended action: In order to reduce the lung cancer risk from radon exposure in your home, it is suggested that you install a radon mitigation system to reduce the indoor radon value in your living spaces to less than the EPA action level of **4 pCi/L** or the WHO reference level of **2.7 pCi/L**.
- **If yes**, have you conducted a radon test to confirm the radon concentration in your home has been reduced to below the EPA action level? You should also conduct a radon test once every 2 years to ensure the radon concentration continues to be controlled.

Patients may request home radon test kits at sosradon.org.