

INTRODUCTION

The Lung Cancer Screening Patient Navigator Roadmap toolkit is designed to provide patient navigators the information and tools needed to improve the uptake and process of lung cancer screening in primary care and community healthcare settings by using evidence-based strategies to address screening barriers and disparities at the patient, provider, and system level. Information contained in the toolkit is applicable to all levels of healthcare workers from information needed for lung cancer screening program set-up to tools designed to facilitate the screening process. Ultimately, we want to improve lung cancer screening rates and adherence, maximize screening benefit, and reduce lung cancer mortality.

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What is patient navigation?

This toolkit was developed based on the following definition and principles of patient navigation, allowing for a comprehensive approach to increase implementation and process of lung cancer screening for a variety of audiences.

- Patient navigation is a healthcare strategy that helps eliminate barriers to care to address disparities related to care for cancer and other chronic illnesses.¹
- Patient navigation requires a team-based approach with successful navigation involving administrators to champion the program, supervisors to provide clinical and administrative support, and patient navigators with a defined role within the healthcare team.²
- In the cancer care continuum, the scope of patient navigation extends from prevention and detection to diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship through end of life¹. Since this toolkit is designed for the purposes of lung cancer screening, we primarily focus on tools for prevention and detection, but also provide helpful information and resources for diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.
- The goal of patient navigation is to provide personalized assistance to each patient by addressing individual barriers and facilitating the screening process at the system and provider level.

History of patient navigation in the cancer continuum

Patient navigation was initially used in 1990 by Dr. Harold Freeman in Harlem, NY to address and remove patient barriers from time between a suspicious finding and diagnosis for breast cancer. Ultimately, the use of patient navigation in this population helped reduce time to cancer diagnosis, increased rates of early-stage diagnoses, and increased the overall 5-year survival rate.¹ Similar results have been achieved in colon, breast, and cervical cancer screenings as patient navigation has expanded throughout the United States in academic and community settings³.

Patient navigation in lung cancer screening

As a new screening modality, lung cancer screening stands to greatly benefit from the use of patient navigators.⁴ The lung cancer screening process involves several administration steps and requires a variety of components for reimbursement by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid. Furthermore, lung cancer disproportionately affects minority, uninsured, and rural residents⁵ and is the only cancer screening modality where eligibility is based on a life-style choice associated with the stigma of smoking.⁶ The following chapters will present evidence for patient navigation as an intervention with the intention to provide education, technical assistance, and outreach to patient navigators, clinics, and programs to increase lung cancer screening rates.

This toolkit contains evidence-based and experience-based examples, case studies, practical tools, and resources to help:

- Describe the necessary components of lung cancer screening and connect the role of patient navigation within the screening process.
- Strategize how your organization will prioritize lung cancer screening navigation within available personnel and resources.
- Provide resources and tools based on evidence-based strategies to facilitate in-reach/ outreach, eligibility determination, barrier reduction, patient follow-up tracking, and evaluation metrics.
- Offer tips and examples on how best to educate and normalize lung cancer screening for eligible individuals, their families, medical providers, and the community.
- Based on the current status of your program and setting, describe the types and steps of setting up a lung cancer screening program.

Audience

The toolkit was designed for a variety of health care professional including:

- Patient navigators.
- Practice planners and administrators in primary care and community health settings.
- Nurse navigators in academic and community settings.
- Administrators at radiology and imaging centers
- IT personnel that support electronic health record management
- Researchers



Using the Toolkit

This toolkit provides a set of tools and resources that will be useful for different phases and aspects of lung cancer screening navigation. Use of the toolkit will depend on the needs and phase of your individual program, you may not need to use every tool, or even read every chapter. We encourage you to explore the list of chapters to determine what is most relevant for your specific situation and screening program. Before you will be able to download the tools we will ask you to provide some basic information about your position and workplace so we can understand who is using the toolkit and to better meet future needs of lung cancer screening patient navigation.

Chapters contain relevant educational information and are enhanced with printed or online resources, program level tools, patient level tools, templates, and case studies. Each activity or knowledge source will be accompanied with a specific icon:



Read More About It - Recommended published or online materials and readings that address a specific topic or aspect of lung cancer screening more in depth.



Program and Participant Level Tools - Tools aimed at the program or participant level to help facilitate the overall lung cancer screening process at the practice level and to additionally help with needs of the individual participant. Tools are task-specific and are meant to be adjusted or used as a template for you to adjust as needed.



Redirect - Go to another chapter and check out a related topic in another section of the toolkit.



Training Activity – Visit the companion training to learn more and check your knowledge! This training was designed in collaboration with the Patient Navigator Training Collaborative, a national leader in providing resources for the patient navigation workforce.



Resources – Links to helpful tips or examples of lung cancer screening examples or documents.

Development of the Toolkit

Content contained in this toolkit is the culmination of published and publicly available information on lung cancer screening and the use of patient navigation in other cancer screening modalities. Additionally, experiences from real-world lung cancer screening implementation experts and researchers have been incorporated when possible.

- Literature of relevant scientific articles focused on patient navigation evidence base from breast, colon, and cervical cancer screenings.
- Existing lung cancer screening and patient navigation resources.
- Expertise from key informant interviews (lung cancer screening clinicians in academic and community settings, program coordinators, implementation experts, nurse navigators).

Final Thoughts

Many patient and provider resources exist to help with lung cancer screening education, program set-up, and implementation. This toolkit is dedicated to information and materials that will help patient navigators facilitate the uptake, process, and flow of lung cancer screening. We hope you find this toolkit a great resource to understand and utilize the role of patient navigation as a standard part of your lung cancer screening program and practice.



Introduction References

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