

Improving lung health at Magnolia Regional Health Center



CHALLENGE: Effectively manage and grow lung cancer screening and lung nodule programs to catch more cancers sooner and drive better patient outcomes

SOLUTION: PowerScribe® Lung Cancer Screening Program, PowerScribe Follow-up Manager

RESULTS: Comprehensive, end-to-end solution proactively tracks lung cancer screening and lung nodule patients and prevents them from falling through the cracks

In Corinth, Mississippi, Magnolia Regional Health Center (MRHC) offers fully integrated, multi-specialty care, including multi-disciplinary medical oncology and other supportive cancer care services, for patients and their families. Because they serve a large geographic region—located about 50 miles away from the next hospital—with a diverse population, valuable community health initiatives are front and center for MRHC leaders.

Like all healthcare organizations, they have been on a mission to catch more cancers sooner. It's something that's particularly important in a region where lung cancer rates have trended higher than the U.S. national average. Today, with PowerScribe Lung Cancer Screening and PowerScribe Follow-up Manager, MRHC is screening more patients and identifying more lung nodules earlier, when early intervention leads to increased treatment options and better patient outcomes.

"We needed a solution to manage the unmanageable, and PowerScribe Lung Cancer Screening and PowerScribe Follow-up Manager are that solution for us. It's an easy to use, end-to-end workflow that helps us proactively track and follow our program patients so that no one slips through the cracks."

— Kayla Stutts, Lead CT Technologist, Magnolia Regional Health Center

The journey toward an integrated lung cancer screening program

According to Kayla Stutts, MRHC's lead CT technologist, the organization had been tracking incidental lung nodules for a number of years, but it was a time-consuming process that involved spreadsheets and manual workflows. "There were no fail-safes," she said. They knew they needed a solution to help capture and manage these patients to ensure they got their needed follow-up. Furthermore, with a vision to extend outreach to at-risk patients, they sought to establish and grow a formal lung cancer screening (LCS) program.

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500+

patients screened in first 2 years

The Nuance solutions integrate with MRHC's electronic health record (EHR) and easily support and automate lung cancer screening initiatives by managing the growing influx of screening exams from enrollment through reporting, including communicating results, recommended follow-ups, and patient compliance.

Stutts, who allocates about a quarter of her work week to managing LCS for Magnolia, notes that the solution is "very user friendly. This is a busy, fast-paced environment already, and it would be difficult to manage this program successfully if Nuance didn't make it so easy for me." And, with the proactive alerts built into the application workflow, she says, "there's almost no way for you to overlook a patient."

Preventing patients from slipping through the cracks

In fact, Stutts has been impressed by how big of an impact, in a relatively small amount of time, the program has had, thanks to PowerScribe Lung Cancer Screening and PowerScribe Follow-up Manager. Since they went live with the Nuance solutions in May 2019, Stutts says they have screened 516 patients through the LCS program. In just the first 13 months of the program, they identified and began tracking 22 lung nodules. "If even one of these ultimately saves a life, it's all been worth it."

For many of the providers at MRCH, proactive lung cancer screening and lung nodule management is personal: "Our ordering providers are very passionate about this program and actively promote it to their eligible patients," says Stutts. The patients love Magnolia's program, too: "They're beginning to see lung cancer screening in the same way they see mammograms—an opportunity to find cancer sooner, before it's too late."

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