Opportunities to Leverage Navigation and Other Evidence-Based Strategies to Increase Lung Cancer Screening in Appalachia

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BACKGROUND

The Rural Appalachian Lung Cancer Screening Initiative is led by the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), the Appalachian Community Cancer Alliance (The Alliance), and patient advocacy partners. This multi-year initiative, recognized by the Cancer Moonshot℠, seeks to improve lung cancer screening rates by identifying and addressing social and structural barriers that prevent rural Appalachian residents from accessing screening. This region is markedly rural and characterized by generational poverty and a lack of key resources including access to health care. The Alliance is focused on interdisciplinary, patient-centered approaches to cancer care delivery from prevention through survivorship. Optimizing lung cancer screening is one of its key priorities.

CONCLUSIONS

The collective insights from research provide guidance around strategies that can be considered to optimize guideline-concordant lung cancer screening, increase patient retention, and contribute to early detection of suspicious lung nodules. Supporting the use of navigation services will be a critical component to increase the rate of lung cancer screening.

The next phase of the initiative includes work with health care sites in identified rural Appalachian communities in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia to understand additional programmatic needs and to help implement enhanced screening programs.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ACCC would like to thank these partner organizations for their contributions to this important project:

Funding

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METHODS

• Convened an expert Task Force and patient advocacy partners to guide research parameters.

• A targeted scan was conducted in 2022 to gather epidemiologic data and identify current best practices for screening at the community (ie, health care system) and societal level which could be applied to rural areas.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH

ACCC is well positioned to disseminate best practices and learnings from this initiative to its membership and engage additional sites in Appalachia to enhance their screening program. Potential tactics include:

• Use and evaluation of ACCC’s Lung Cancer Screening Implementation Change Package

• Leverage partnerships to develop culturally-appropriate messaging for lung cancer screening

• Peer-to-peer learning exchange through an in-person Outcomes Summit

FUNDING

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To learn more, scan the QR code or visit www.accc-cancer.org/acca

APPALACHIA

13 states 423 counties 3 federally recognized tribal communities

RESULTS

Evidence Based Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase Screening</th>
<th>Increase Retention</th>
<th>Nodule Management Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Identify provider champions</td>
<td>• Address access barriers</td>
<td>Lung nodule management programs specialize in risk assessment, evaluation, early diagnosis, and treatment of lung nodules.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Own administrative aspects after referral</td>
<td>• Provide navigation</td>
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<td>• Create cohesion across multidisciplinary teams</td>
<td>• Centralize follow-up</td>
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<td>• Standardize CT ordering processes</td>
<td>• Automate patient reminder calls</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Utilize navigators</td>
<td>• Focus outreach to people with lower adherence rates</td>
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<td>• Mobile screening</td>
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APPALACHIA

Kentucky has the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality rates, and WV has the 2nd highest incidence rate in the US.¹