NUANCE

Catching more cancers, earlier, with AI-powered lung cancer screening

Baptist Health South Florida

"Tracking patients is not something you can do with sticky notes and spreadsheets, and manual uploads for a substantial program like ours just don't make sense. You need a way to streamline and automate reporting, which Nuance does for us."

— Juan Batlle, MD, MBA, Chief of Thoracic Imaging, Baptist Health South Florida and the Miami Cancer Institute

CHALLENGE:

Support and grow high-volume, community-based lung cancer screening program, and automate effective patient tracking and follow-up.

SOLUTION:

- PowerScribe® Lung Cancer Screening

RESULTS:

- 2,470 qualified patients scanned over initial 3.5-year period, with 3% needing follow-up testing

- 26 proven lung cancers caught and treated in that time—86% at early stages, well above the 16% average

Baptist Health South Florida's Miami Cancer Institute (MCI) has quickly become a premier destination for lung cancer screening (LCS). With a multidisciplinary approach to treating patients, the organization is catching more cancers at their earliest stages, when they're most treatable—and that's having a profound impact on patients.

"Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States," Dr. Juan Batlle explains. "Yet we have had no recognized screening program—unlike prostate, breast, and colon cancers." This changed, however, around 2010, when a research trial revealed a significant mortality benefit to annual screening for smokers, particularly when the screening was combined with smoking cessation programs.

Trial results were so compelling that Dr. Batlle and the MCI team began the process of creating their own lung cancer screening program, underscored by three key objectives:

1. Catch cancers early enough to have a positive impact on outcomes.
2. Achieve year-over-year program growth.
3. Make sure no one falls through the cracks.

To address the first two objectives, the team adheres to the CMS-specific parameters for screening eligibility: people who have a minimum 20-pack-per-year smoking history, current smokers or those who have quit smoking within the last 15 years, are asymptomatic, and are aged 50-77. "For self-pay patients in this group, we offer our lung cancer screening for $35 per scan. The accessible price point is important, otherwise you're not doing anyone any favors. You would have done all of the work to set up the program, but you wouldn't have anyone using it."

To ensure no one falls through the cracks, MCI relies on PowerScribe Lung Cancer Screening to underpin their comprehensive LCS program.

"You need a real system that complies with HIPAA guidelines, can talk to your EHR, accurately renders the radiologist's narrative, and keeps all reports and imaging together. Nuance is the glue that keeps all of this together for us."

— Juan Batlle, MD, MBA, Chief of Thoracic Imaging, Baptist Health South Florida and the Miami Cancer Institute

26

early-stage lung cancers caught and treated

LEARN MORE
To find out more about how Nuance PowerScribe One Lung Cancer Screening can reduce workload, automate workflow, and screen and track high risk patients, visit nuance.com/lung-cancer-screening.

PowerScribe Lung Cancer Screening offers an end-to-end workflow solution for MCI

According to Dr. Batlle, this technology is the backbone of the program, supporting one of the busiest programs in the nation, with over 1,800 cases per year. "You need to track eligible patients, even before their CT scan, and a way to enable communications between the patients and the nurse navigators managing the program. That way, when a patient does arrive for their scan, we can look in the database and find their smoking history, demographics, and so on. It also gives us a way to connect to pathology, if that's needed, and to manage any follow-up communications," he says.

For example, PowerScribe Lung Cancer Screening automatically alerts MCI's nurse navigators if a patient is due for a follow-up but has not made an appointment. "It's a good way to make sure no one is falling through the cracks," he says. MCI relies on the solution to track patient results, send letters to patients, and communicate with referring physicians about their patients' scans.

Likewise, the Nuance solution supports MCI in their cancer registry reporting efforts. "Tracking patients is not something you can do with sticky notes and spreadsheets, and manual uploads for a substantial program like ours just don't make sense. You need a way to streamline and automate reporting, which Nuance does for us," notes Dr. Batlle. "You need a real system that complies with HIPAA guidelines, can talk to your EHR, accurately renders the radiologist's narrative, and keeps all reports and imaging together. Nuance is the glue that keeps all of this together for us."

Dr. Batlle notes that he and the team at MCI are very happy with how the Lung Cancer Screening program has progressed, and he is proud that in the first three and a half years, they found and treated 26 proven cancers, after scanning nearly 2,500 eligible, qualified patients. The vast majority of these cancers were in their earliest stages, which, according to Dr. Batlle, "inverts the therapy dynamic in favor of the patient. Most of these cancers have been caught early enough to be surgically cured, which is not typical of lung cancers."

By combining these screening efforts with smoking cessation programs, Dr. Batlle is optimistic for what the future holds, particularly in light of the program's ability to find cancers earlier, when they're most treatable, and he looks forward to growing MCI's Lung Cancer Screening Program. "It is great to be a part of the Miami Cancer Institute, and to continue offering excellence to our patients and the community."

About Nuance Communications, Inc.
Nuance Communications is a technology pioneer with market leadership in conversational AI and ambient intelligence. A full-service partner trusted by 77 percent of U.S. hospitals and more than 75 percent of the Fortune 100 companies worldwide, Nuance creates intuitive solutions that amplify people's ability to help others. Nuance is a Microsoft company.