



SESSION RECAP

Kentucky Lung Cancer Screening Learning Collaborative

The Crucial Role of Primary Care in Lung Cancer Screening

January 14, 2026



Access the recording [here](#)

Register for the next KY Lung Cancer Screening Learning Collaborative session [here](#)

Summary of the session

The session focused on improving lung cancer screening referral and uptake across Kentucky through primary care engagement. Key themes included workflow integration, navigation, reducing provider burden, improving patient awareness, and the importance of strong data use to motivate systems and clinicians.

Panelists

- Tiffany Clark, Director of Patient Integration, Owensboro Health
- Michael Gieske, MD, Director of Lung Cancer Screening, St. Elizabeth Cancer Center
- Jane Strader, MD, Senior Medical Director - Primary Care, Kings Daughters Medical Center
- Anthony Weaver, MD, Medical Director, New Hope Clinic
- Deanna Wigginton, APRN, Thoracic Oncology APRN & Lung Cancer Navigator, Saint Joseph East

Discussion Highlights:

- Dr. Anthony Weaver emphasized the urgency of increasing screening rates, drawing comparisons to screening practices for other cancers. He highlighted the high mortality of lung cancer in Kentucky and argued that low-dose CT should replace chest X-rays as the baseline imaging tool for smokers.
- Tiffany Clark described the centralized lung cancer screening program at Owensboro Health, which streamlines referrals and reduces provider burden. Her team provides education, EMR optimization, and centralized care coordination to ensure seamless screening processes.
- Dr. Jane Strader shared the decentralized approach at King's Daughters Medical Center, including the use of Epic workflows, health maintenance tools, and nurse-driven prompts. She noted challenges with follow-up and the need for enhanced navigation resources.
- Deanna Wigginton provided insight into her dual role as both clinician and navigator. She performs outreach to primary care practices, reviews all screening results, navigates incidental findings, coordinates specialty referrals, and ensures patients remain connected throughout the screening continuum.
- Dr. Michael Gieske highlighted the power of data to drive improvement. His program produces regular reports, recognizes high-performing sites, and shows significant progress in detecting more cancers at early stages and increasing annual adherence.

Key Themes Discussed

- Limited provider time and patient awareness are major barriers.
- Navigation is essential but often understaffed.
- Strong relationships between primary care, navigators, and specialists improve adherence.
- EMR optimization can reduce errors and streamline referrals.

- Public awareness and patient stories help reduce stigma.
- Healthy competition and transparency improve provider engagement.
- HEDIS-Related Discussion: Panelists discussed the upcoming HEDIS measure on smoking documentation and cessation counseling. While lung cancer screening was removed from the new measure, improved smoking documentation will support screening workflows.
- Opportunities for Improvement
 - More centralized navigation support.
 - Increased outreach and education for providers.
 - Better integration of incidental findings into navigation workflows.
 - Continued use of performance data to encourage uptake.

Resources

- ACS National Lung Cancer Roundtable: Steps for Increasing Lung Cancer Screening: A Guide for Primary Care Practices – click [here](#)
- Screening for Lung Cancer: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement – click [here](#)
- Kentucky Cancer Action Plan – click [here](#)
- Kentucky Lung Cancer Screening Learning Collaborative webpage – click [here](#)

Upcoming Events

Kentucky Lung Cancer Screening Learning Collaborative:

What You Need to Know (WYNTK) About Lung Cancer Screening Eligibility

February 26, 2026 | 12:00 – 1:30 pm EST | Register [here](#)

- During this session, Jamie Studts, PhD, will walk through the current lung cancer screening guidelines, describe how to apply guideline criteria to determine eligibility, and discuss cancer screening considerations. Health care providers, public health professionals, and community partners are encouraged to attend and deepen their understanding of these evidence-based guidelines – strengthening our collective efforts to keep Kentucky a national leader in high-quality lung cancer screening implementation!

Insurance and Financial Intensive Training

March 5, 2026 | 8:30 am – 5:00 pm EST | UofL Shelby Campus Conference Center, Louisville, KY | Register [here](#) |

Access the flyer [here](#)

- Triage Cancer's Insurance & Finance Intensive is a FREE training designed for oncology professionals and advocates. It covers health and disability insurance and financial strategies to help reduce the financial impact of cancer across the care continuum. CEUs offered.

Panelist contact information:

Name	Organization	E-mail
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