The American College of Radiology® (ACR®) is recruiting facilities to participate in the Recommendations Follow-up Improvement Collaborative.

Why Is Improving Recommendations Follow-up Important?

Up to 10% of all radiology reports contain follow-up recommendations and approximately half of the recommended follow-up exams are never performed. Lung nodules represent about half of all imaging follow-up recommendations, and noncompliance with radiology lung nodule follow-up places patients at risk for delayed diagnosis of lung cancer.

The ACR Recommendations Follow-up Improvement Collaborative will bring together four to six teams to improve the rate of lung nodule follow-up thereby decreasing the risk of missed cancers. Led by Ben Wandtke, MD, Associate Professor in the Department of Imaging Sciences, University of Rochester Medical Center, participating team members will support, encourage and learn best practices from each other to improve performance at their local institution.

How Will the Improvement Collaborative Work?

Participants will engage to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their follow-up tracking systems to improve patient outcomes, decrease the risk of missed cancers, generate a return on investment, and reduce malpractice risk for institutions and providers.

Each team will work to solve the same problem at their respective institutions, learning and sharing as they go, supported by ACR ImPower, a team-based, multidisciplinary and structured improvement program. They will participate in 10 sessions over nine months to learn the methods and tools to support a systematic approach to problem solving in complex healthcare environments. Participating sites will become leaders in patients’ adherence to recommended follow-up for lung nodules and will serve as an example for other facilities looking to reach similar performance goals.

What Is Required to Participate?

- A vested interest in improving recommendations follow-up.
- Supportive department leaders.
- Involvement of a quality improvement professional.
- A team of engaged front-line staff and leaders.