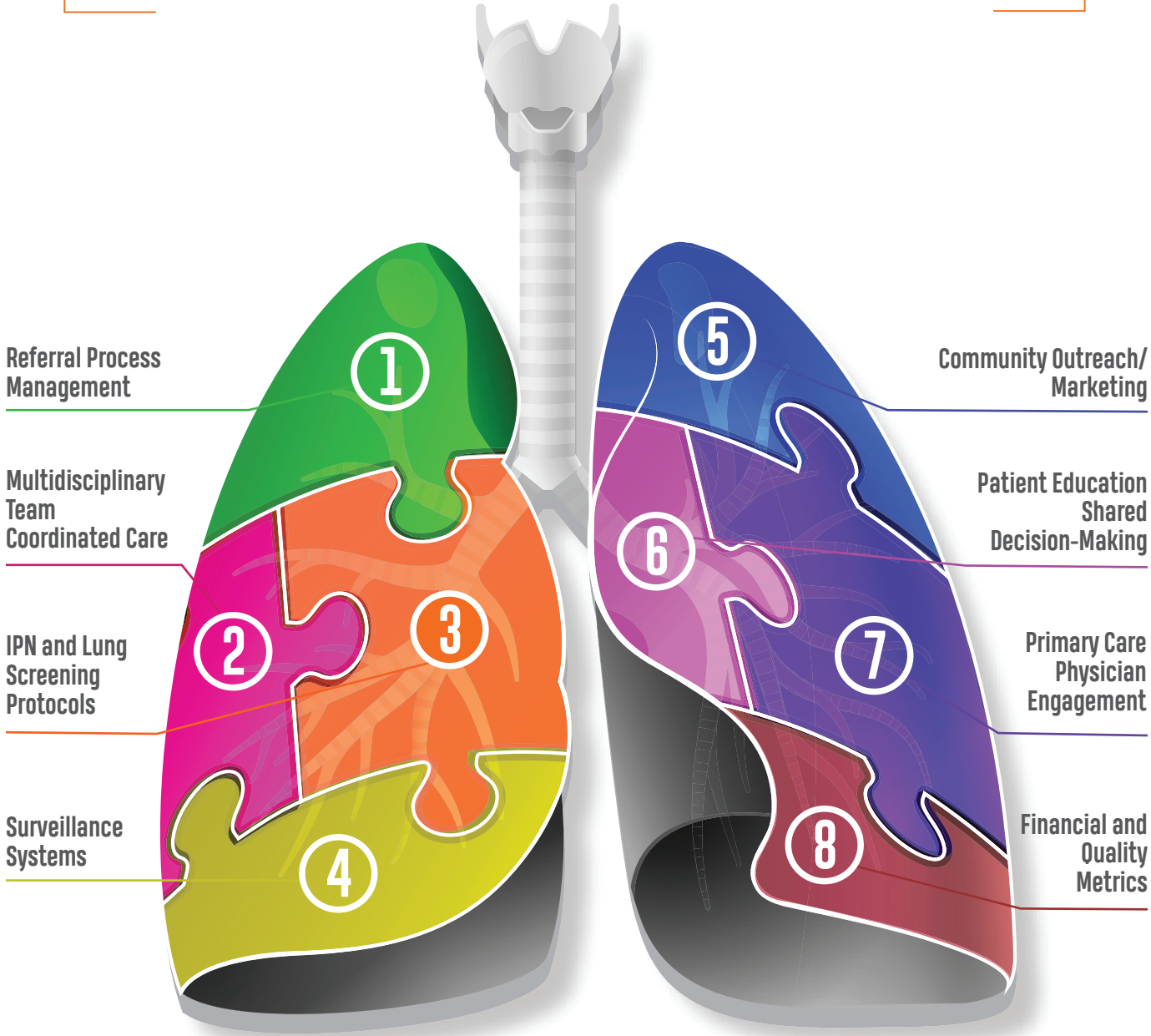


# Considerations to Establishing Quality Care in Early Detection and Lung Cancer

Although every Lung Cancer Screening and Incidental Pulmonary Nodule (IPN) program is different, they all share common pieces. Whether your role is program building, expanding, and/or navigating, you need to have the final picture in mind.

When assembling any puzzle, experts understand the importance of framing the image. The puzzle (pieces) below describes key insights for lung cancer screening and IPN programs with foundational pieces on the edges. Utilize these insights to assess, enhance, and frame your lung health program's picture in navigating from early detection to lung cancer.



The LungAmbition Alliance

The Lung Ambition Alliance, a global coalition with partners across disciplines in over 50 countries, was formed to combat lung cancer through accelerating innovation and driving forward meaningful improvements for people with lung cancer. We do this by advocating for improved approaches in three areas: screening and early diagnosis, accelerated delivery of innovative medicine, and improved quality care.

**AONN** Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators

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## Referral Process Management

- Standardized referral process for patients considered for lung screening and IPN management<sup>1</sup>
- Establish effective communication with area primary care physicians for referrals<sup>2</sup>
- Multidisciplinary teams across multiple facilities, for patient hand-off process



## Multidisciplinary Team Coordinated Care

- Dedicated patient navigators<sup>1</sup>
- Dedicated physician and administrative champions<sup>1</sup>
- Clearly defined multidisciplinary roles for lung screening and IPN management programs<sup>3,4</sup>
- Involvement and coordination of thoracic pathologists for specimen review, pulmonologists, thoracic surgeons, and interventional radiologists<sup>3</sup>
- Regularly scheduled program quality review meetings<sup>1</sup>



## IPN and Lung Screening Protocols

### IPN

- Development of emergency department protocols for management of IPN patients identified in the emergency department<sup>5</sup>
- Standardized IPN referral and intake protocols with consideration of establishing a dedicated nodule clinic<sup>6</sup>
- Communication protocols for IPN patients and their primary care providers

### Lung Screening

- Standardized lung screening referral and intake protocols<sup>7-11</sup>
- Communication protocols for lung screening patients and their primary care providers<sup>2</sup>



## Surveillance Systems

- Implementation of broad-based IT initiatives to support collaboration across clinical settings<sup>2</sup>
- Standardized and integrated reporting tools for lung nodule programs<sup>12,13</sup>
- Linkages with data management system/imaging centers, EMR platforms, and standardized surveillance protocols
- Registration of lung cancer screening facility with the ACR Lung Cancer Screening Registry® (LCSR)<sup>14</sup>



## Community Outreach/Marketing

- Community outreach educational initiatives, smoking cessation programs, and tobacco treatment specialists<sup>7,15</sup>
- Resources and ongoing strategies to market lung screening and IPN management programs<sup>16</sup>
- Print and web-based patient resources across the community and targeted groups, including healthcare providers<sup>16</sup>



## Patient Education Shared Decision-Making

- Encourage and ensure patients are active participants in the shared decision-making process<sup>7</sup>
- Offer referrals to pulmonary rehabilitation services following active treatment<sup>17</sup>



## Primary Care Physician Engagement

- Proactive pattern of communication with primary care physicians for patients undergoing treatment, surveillance, and follow-up<sup>18</sup>



## Financial and Quality Metrics

- Apply national and/or regional metrics to measure financial impact (costs and benefits) of lung screening and IPN management programs<sup>19</sup>
- Financial advocates, navigators, and/or financial counselors to provide support to patients<sup>16</sup>
- Identify national and/or regional metrics to monitor quality standards<sup>20</sup>

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