

TrialConnect Initiative-Increasing Catchment Area for Clinical Trials Enrollment in Long Island and Queens

T. Imtiaz, D. Marks, A. Joshi, E. Aviki, R. Nelson, M. Salcedo, J. Mehnert, B. Pothuri

Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone Health

1. Background

In 2019, NYU Langone Health merged with Winthrop University Hospital, and with this merger, the Perlmutter Cancer Center's (PCC) Clinical Trials Office (CTO) integrated across both Manhattan and Long Island campuses. The Mineola, Long Island campus already had a successful PCC CTO infrastructure for oncology trials.

However, other PCC locations in Long Island and Queens—Lake Success, Huntington, and Rego Park—do not offer oncology clinical trials. Additionally, the newly acquired Long Island Community Hospital in Patchogue also lacks clinical research infrastructure.

To enhance patient engagement and streamline trial enrollment across Long Island, our team developed the Trial Connect Referral Initiative. This initiative optimizes the referral process for oncologists, enabling them to refer eligible patients for pre-screening in open clinical trials at the Mineola campus

2. Goals

- Enhance clinical trial patient referral process by streamlining communication channels
- Foster collaboration between oncology professionals and CTO to create a seamless referral system.
- Optimize the Trial Connect Referral Initiative to better match patients with suitable clinical trials based on medical needs and trial criteria.

3. Solutions and Methods

The first phase of the Trial Connect Referral Initiative was launched using an email platform to streamline communication between oncologists and the TrialConnect Team at the Mineola campus. Oncologists could email referrals with patient history and MRN details, allowing the team to pre-screen within 48 hours and follow up with information on available clinical trials.

Building on this success, the next phase introduced the EPIC Order for TrialConnect. This system enabled oncologists to send referrals directly to the clinical trial team, who would then perform pre-screening and provide ongoing updates on eligible studies. The integration within Epic kept all referral data in the patient's existing chart, facilitating real-time communication between physicians and the trial team. This ensured continuous evaluation of trial eligibility and kept physicians informed about relevant clinical trial opportunities for their patients.

4. Outcomes

From November 2023 to October 2024, there were 28 referrals during the initial phase of the initiative. Of these, six patients provided consent to participate in clinical trials, with five of them successfully enrolling in a trial for further treatment.

TrialConnect EPIC order was created and launched October 2024.

During the second phase after launching TrialConnect EPIC Order from November 2024-Present, there were 12 referrals. Out of those 12 referrals, there were 2 consents, and they successfully enrolled on a clinical trial.

5. Learned and Future Directions

Physicians shared satisfaction with the access to EPIC ordering for patients considered for clinical trials. They also appreciated the ongoing communication facilitated through EPIC chat, which enhanced coordination with the research team regarding patient pre-screening and assessment of inclusion and exclusion criteria.

We plan to expand the adoption of EPIC Ordering across all PCC sites in Long Island and Queens. This will include on-site training at all Long Island locations, including Long Island Community Hospital in Patchogue, extending reach to residents further east. Our goals aim to increase awareness of clinical trials and enhance physician engagement across the NYU PCC enterprise.

Figures

Below is a map of the different PCC campuses in the New York region:

