

# Optimizing Trial Access Through Structured Molecular Review and Nurse Navigation

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## BACKGROUND

Comprehensive genomic profiling and next-generation sequencing (NGS) have expanded opportunities for biomarker-driven clinical trials. Translating complex molecular reports into timely patient enrollment remains difficult due to fragmented workflows, competing clinical demands, and intricate eligibility requirements. Research nurse navigators at HICCC are uniquely equipped to streamline molecular trial matching and expand access to precision oncology studies.

## GOALS

Integrate molecular profiling review into research nurse navigation workflows to improve timeliness and accuracy of trial matching, increase referral-to-consent rates for genomically matched studies, and reduce missed opportunities for patients with actionable alterations.

## SOLUTIONS & METHODS

A structured, nurse-led workflow integrates weekly molecular reports to identify potential matches for targeted trials (e.g., KRAS, MTAP, SMARCA4).

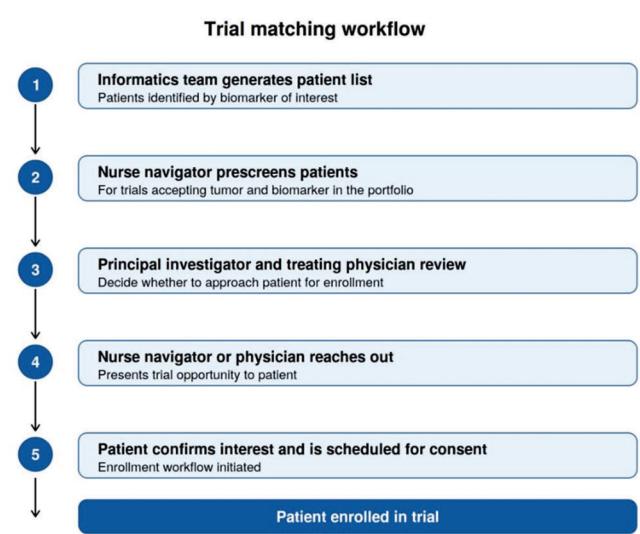
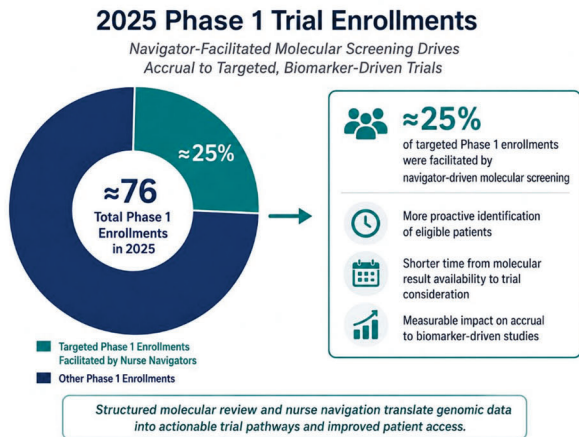
- Nurse navigators partner closely with the bioinformatics team, which developed an algorithm to extract key molecular information directly from the medical record database.
- The process continues to evolve, with ongoing refinements to improve accuracy and streamline prescreening.
- This approach allows navigators to conduct preliminary eligibility screening, review prior therapies, and coordinate across oncologists, investigators, regulatory teams, and study staff.
- Molecular trackers proactively follow patients with actionable alterations, and investigators review options to ensure optimal trial matches.

## OUTCOMES

Implementation of a research nurse navigator-led molecular trial matching workflow led to:

- Increased visibility and standardization of biomarker-driven trial opportunities across disease teams.
- Early observations show more proactive identification of eligible patients.
- Shorter intervals between molecular result availability and trial consideration.

In 2025, of the approximately 76 patients enrolled onto Phase 1 trials, navigator-facilitated molecular screening contributed to nearly 25 % of targeted Phase 1 enrollments, demonstrating a measurable impact on accrual to biomarker-driven studies. Overall, integrating structured molecular review and tracking into nurse navigation workflows has proven both practical and impactful. This model highlights the evolving role of research nurse navigators in translating genomic data into actionable trial pathways, supporting accrual to targeted studies, and reinforcing clinical trial infrastructure.



## LESSONS LEARNED & FUTURE DIRECTION

Dedicated nurse navigation and early biomarker integration streamline trial readiness, while searchable databases and provider education enhance screening efficiency and referrals. Future efforts will focus on EMR-linked automation, community site expansion for equitable access, AI-assisted eligibility review, and prospective tracking of accrual and diversity metrics.