

Significance and Background

Firefighters have chronic exposure to carcinogenic materials and chemicals. Carcinogens such as benzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are present in active burning fires¹. This exposure over time has raised concerns about possible occupational associated cancer risks. According to a retrospective cohort study done by Ma, et al (2006), which focused solely on firefighters in the state of Florida, increased findings for cancer included:

- ❖ Bladder
- ❖ Thyroid
- ❖ Testicular
- ❖ Cervical

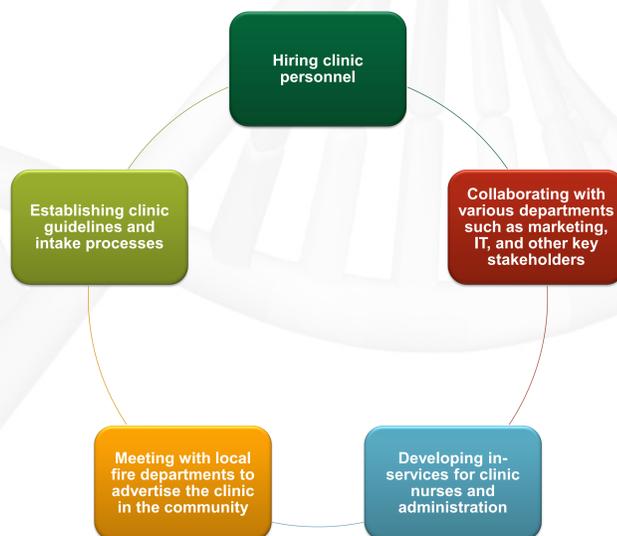
The Firefighter Cancer Initiative (FCI) launched in 2015, with the purpose of understanding cancer in the firefighter population. As part of ongoing research, the Cancer Prevention and Wellness Clinic was created to provide prevention, screening and early detection of cancer to active and retired firefighters.

Purpose

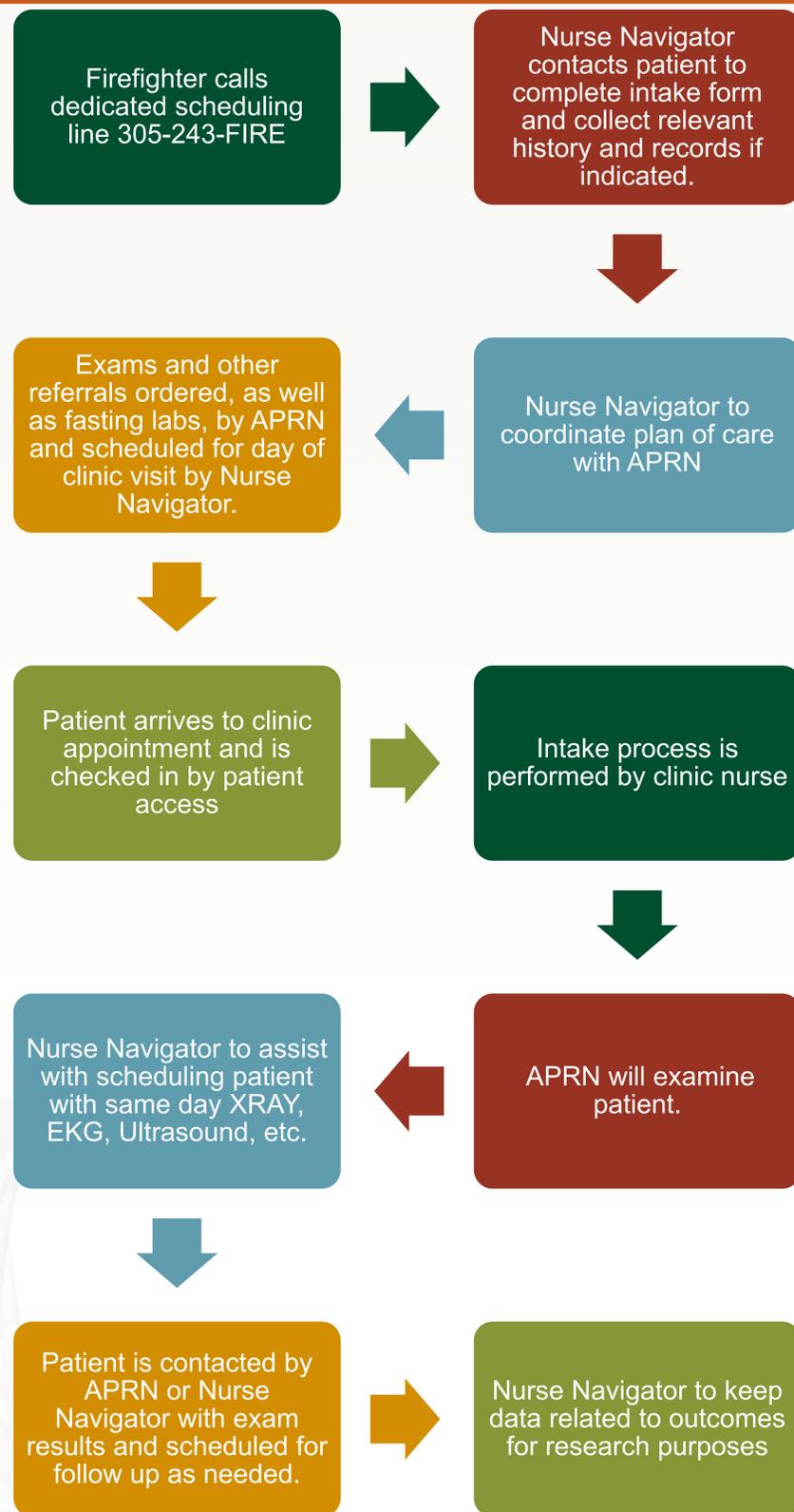
To describe one institution's roadmap to establishing a Cancer Prevention and Wellness Clinic.

Interventions

In order to launch the clinic, various processes needed to take place. Through careful planning and execution, all of the following interventions were completed before the opening date.



Clinic Roadmap



Discussion

Firefighters in the community have yearly physicals as a job requirement. If results from their yearly physical are suspicious for cancer, firefighters have no designated specialists for follow up. The purpose of this clinic is to provide an all-inclusive service to include comprehensive exams, diagnostic tests when applicable, referral to specialists and follow up as indicated all within one established comprehensive cancer center.

Evaluation

To date the clinic has expanded throughout South Florida to include three locations at Downtown Miami, Coral Gables, and Plantation. Patients have included active, retired, and volunteer firefighters from various city and county fire departments,.

Number of Completed Screenings	
Breast	2
Colorectal	8
Lung	1
Prostate	6
Skin	21
Testicular	1
Thyroid	7

Conclusion

As the clinic grows, the goal is to help further our understanding of screening practices to create a national standard of care for cancer screening among the fire service. The added benefit for the firefighter population is the opportunity to participate in research studies evaluating increased risks and outcomes, as well as, wellness program availability at the cancer center.

Reference: Ma F, Fleming LE, Lee DJ, Trapido E, & Gerace TA. (2006). Cancer incidence in Florida professional firefighters, 1981 to 1999. *Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine*, 48(9), 883–888.