The Right Treatment Case Study:
Health System-Led Biomarker-Driven Treatment Model

Pharmacist-Led Molecular Tumor Board
Saint Luke's, Kansas City

Blake Buzard, PharmD, Precision Oncology Pharmacist

This case study focuses on ensuring patients receive the right treatment for their type of cancer.

Challenge
- Patients with actionable biomarker test results often did not receive matched therapies.
- Oncologists faced information overload with rapidly changing precision medicine guidelines and off-label data.
- Insurance denials and limited drug access restricted treatment options.

Solution
- Established a pharmacist-driven molecular tumor board co-led by oncologists and precision oncology pharmacists.
- Pharmacists review genomic results and treatment histories, then develop evidence-based, personalized recommendations.
- Utilized comprehensive biomarker testing through next generation sequences (NGS) for all tumor board cases to guide therapy selection.
- Tumor board reviews and integrates recommendations promptly into patient care to ensure timely therapy initiation.
- Pharmacists coordinate letters of medical necessity, identify clinical trials, and secure medications via compassionate use or expanded access programs.

Outcomes
- Increased delivery of genomically matched therapies to patients who otherwise might not have received them, including off-label and trial-based treatments.
- ~80–90% of patients reviewed by the tumor board received actionable treatment recommendations, with a high rate of implementation.
- Streamlined decision-making for oncologists, reducing burden and confusion from complex precision medicine data.
- Time from genomic test result to therapy initiation was reduced significantly, often within 1–2 weeks.
- Improved patient access to clinical trials, compassionate use programs, and expanded access therapies.
- Enhanced interdisciplinary collaboration, ensuring oncology, pharmacy, and molecular pathology teams were aligned.

Key Learnings
- Pharmacist-driven tumor boards can bridge the gap between biomarker testing and actionable treatment.
- Direct support for insurance navigation and medication access is essential to ensure recommendations translate into patient care.
- Rapid integration of genomic results into clinical decision-making improves outcomes and equity.

Replication Tip
- Form a pharmacist-driven tumor board that works closely with oncologists to translate genomic results into actionable treatment quickly.

> "We don't just make recommendations—we make sure they actually reach the patient. That means navigating insurance, securing compassionate use or expanded access medications, and coordinating clinical trials so patients can get the therapy they need, when they need it."

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