



Fostering a quality culture: A Volpara Analytics return-on-investment story 2018

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Introduction

ProMedica's mission is to improve patients' health and well-being. Achieving this mission requires great team commitment to provide affordable services that meet a high standard of quality.

The Breast Care Team supports this commitment by offering comprehensive breast cancer screening and diagnostic services. To help deliver high-quality services, ProMedica uses Volpara® Analytics™ software to ensure that mammograms meet or exceed MQSA requirements. ProMedica also uses Volpara® Scorecard™ software to objectively measure breast density for each patient.

Simplifying image quality review

ProMedica was drawn to Volpara Analytics when the FDA announced the EQUIP initiative. Linda Miller, R.T.(R)(M), Lead Technologist at the ProMedica Toledo Hospital Breast Care Center, realized that the burdens of the new EQUIP initiative would be a problem for ProMedica's complex breast imaging practice. Linda needed to significantly reduce the time she and Dr. Robin Shermis, her lead interpreting physician and medical director, would have to spend manually selecting images. Her solution lay in the automation of Volpara Analytics.

Following ProMedica's EQUIP process is now much easier. Linda quickly uses Volpara Analytics to generate a list of candidate images for review for each of her 35 technologists. Dr. Shermis estimates that using Volpara Analytics for image selection and documentation saved him about 100 hours—time taken from patient care.



Volpara Analytics also allowed ProMedica to integrate automated positioning and compression metrics into their EQUIP process. Linda uses these measures to establish baselines and track performance over time for each technologist.

"I can't see how a large and busy practice in breast imaging can meaningfully meet quality assurance without Volpara Analytics."

— Robin Shermis, MD, MPH



Streamlining accreditation processes

Cindy Smith, R.T.®(M), Lead Technologist at the ProMedica Herrick/Bixby Women's Health Center, received the accreditation renewal request for one of her imaging units soon after participating in a Volpara Analytics Educational Session. She decided to put Volpara Analytics to the test by using it to generate a list of candidate images for review. Cindy was delighted that she was able to complete the image selection process in less than 10 minutes, a task that normally required a couple of weeks' effort. Volpara Analytics allowed Cindy to submit the accreditation renewal application within a week of the initial request, rather than the five-week timeframe she expected.

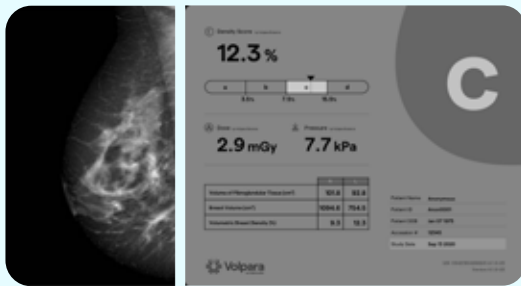
Improving image quality

Linda has discovered that another benefit of using Volpara Analytics is the ability to help individual technologists advance their positioning and compression skills. Using the Volpara Analytics metrics to guide how she coaches her team has led to a 20% improvement in target compression since ProMedica adopted the software in May 2017.

Automatically assessing breast density

Volpara Analytics contains a suite of clinical functions that analyze mammograms in different ways. Dr. Shermis adopted the Volpara® TruDensity™ clinical function to provide an automated, objective, and consistent measure of breast density for his patients. With a reliable and repeatable density measure, Dr. Shermis found a strong basis for triaging women to the appropriate supplemental screening modalities. The number and quality of peer-reviewed papers validating TruDensity convinced him to incorporate it into clinical practice across the ProMedica Health System.

With every screening mammogram, the radiologists at ProMedica use Volpara® Scorecard™ software, which includes both the TruDensity score and the Volpara® Density Grade™ (VDG®), an a/b/c/d value that correlates to BI-RADS® 5th edition.



Boosting essential screening volume

The ProMedica team uses the TruDensity score as an input to the Tyrer-Cuzick v8 Risk Evaluation Tool to determine each woman's lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. In this manner, Dr. Shermis has been able to triage the right women to molecular breast imaging (MBI) screening. He says that the TruDensity clinical function has helped identify dense patients who would benefit from MBI adjunct screening while increasing the cancer detection rate by 7.7%.¹

“We evaluated other commercially available density measurement tools, but we adopted TruDensity because it has been proven to provide objective, volumetric measurement, demonstrating to payors that we have a consistent, standardized approach to density assessment and supplemental imaging. This also reassures women that they have been thoroughly assessed and vectored to the imaging tool best suited to improve the early detection of cancer, based on their breast density and individual risk factors.”

—Robin Shermis, MD, MPH

ProMedica's approach to patient assessment and triage, under Dr. Shermis' direction, uses payor resources most effectively, improves early detection of breast cancer, and contributes to women's well-being.

Find out more about Volpara Analytics

To see how Volpara Analytics can support your breast screening program, contact your Volpara Health representative for a live demonstration, or visit our website.

About Volpara

Volpara Health is the leading provider of breast imaging analytics and analysis products that improve clinical decision-making and the early detection of breast cancer. Every day, Volpara remains focused on its mission to help save families from cancer.

¹ Shermis, R. et al. Supplemental breast cancer screening with molecular breast imaging for women with dense breast tissue. *AJR*. 2016; 207: 450-457



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