



Expanding Access to FibroScans® in a Hepatology Department Through FibroScan® Nurse Visits

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ABOUT KAISER PERMANENTE

Kaiser Permanente Northwest-

Oregon / SW Washington

Caring for over 600,000 patients

2 Hospitals

33 Medical Offices

40 Departments

Hepatology Department-

6 Hepatology Providers (MDs, PA & NP)

4 RNs, 1 LPN, 3 MAs



Photograph by author, 2026

What is a FibroScan®?

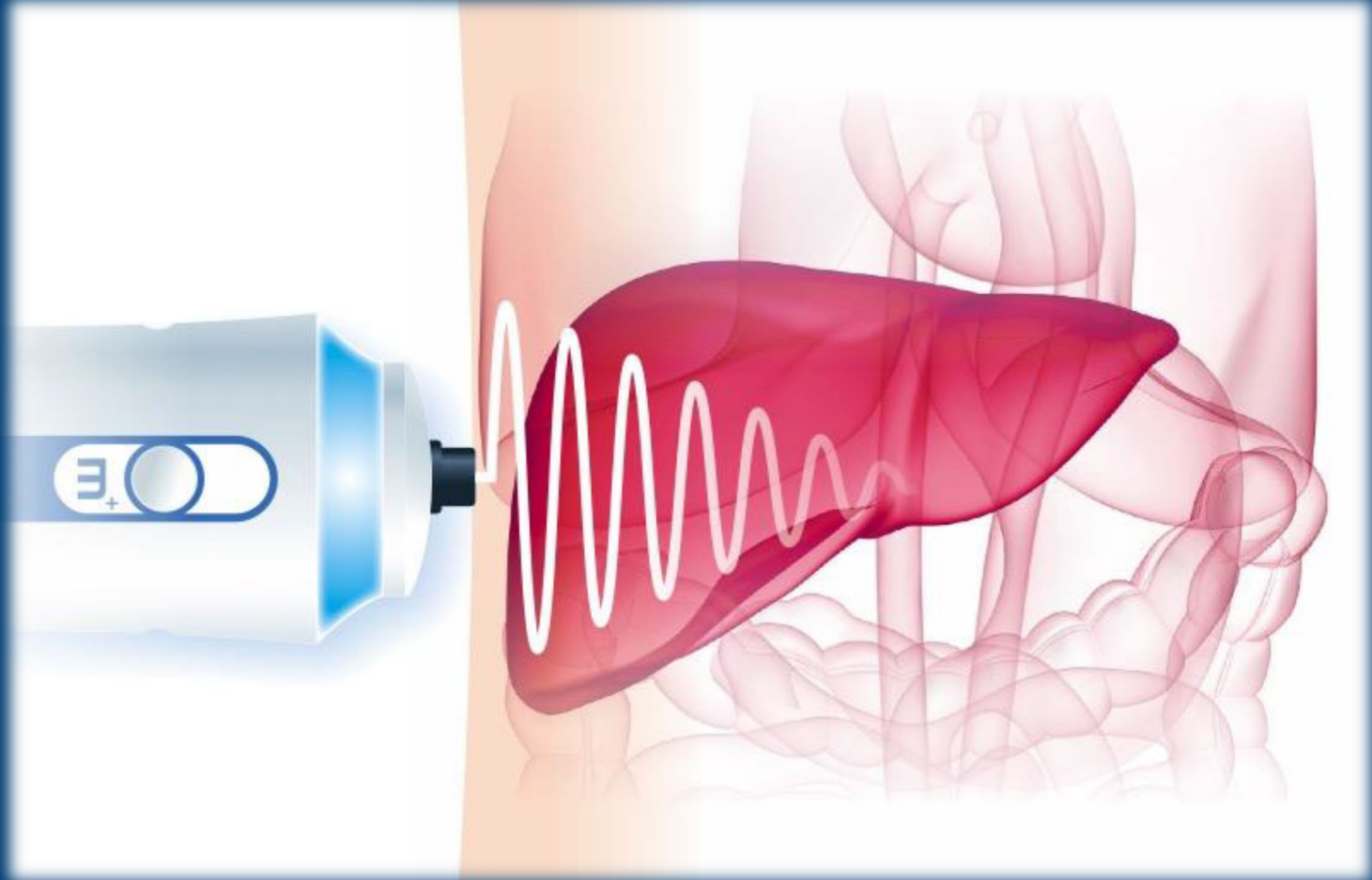
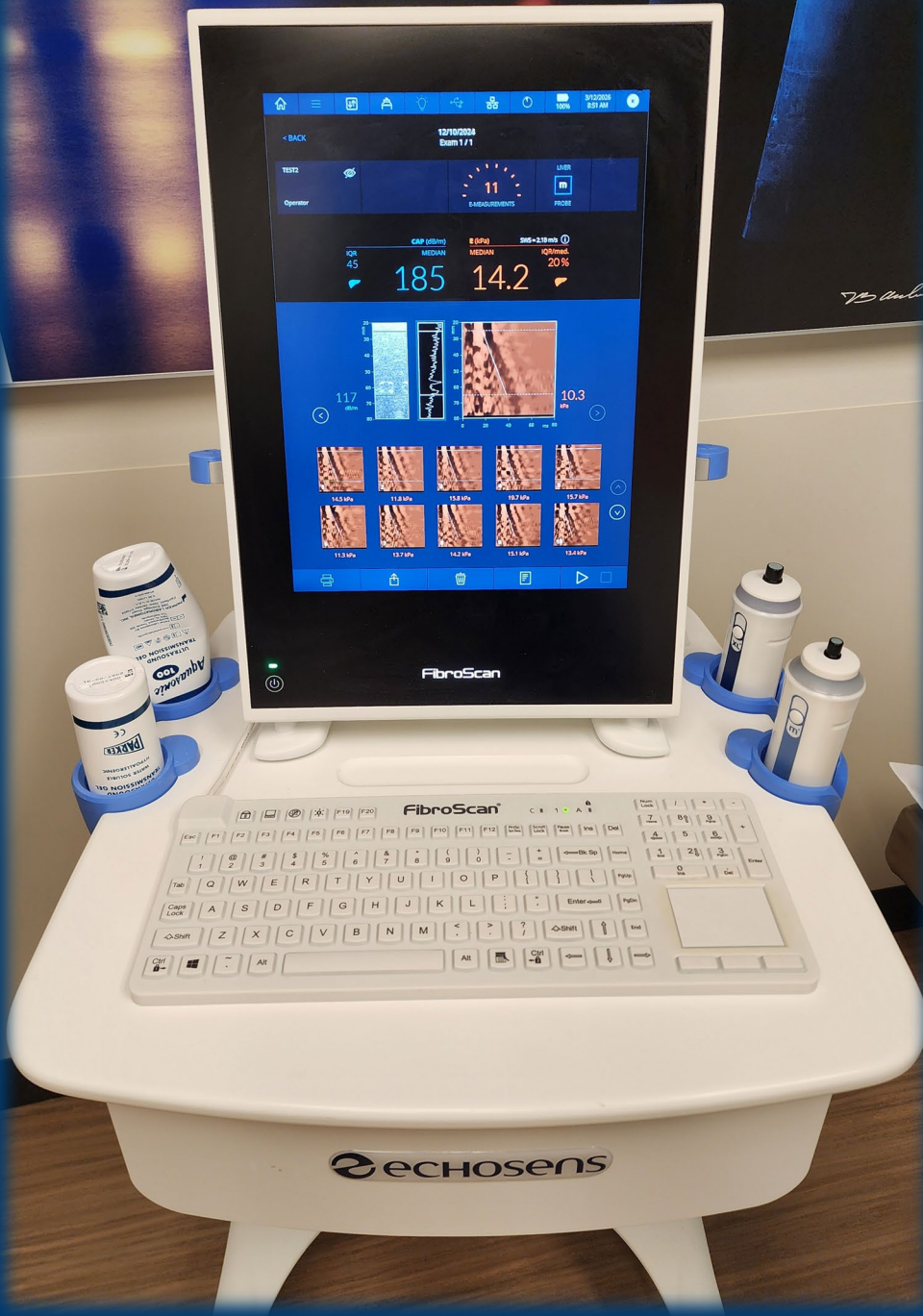
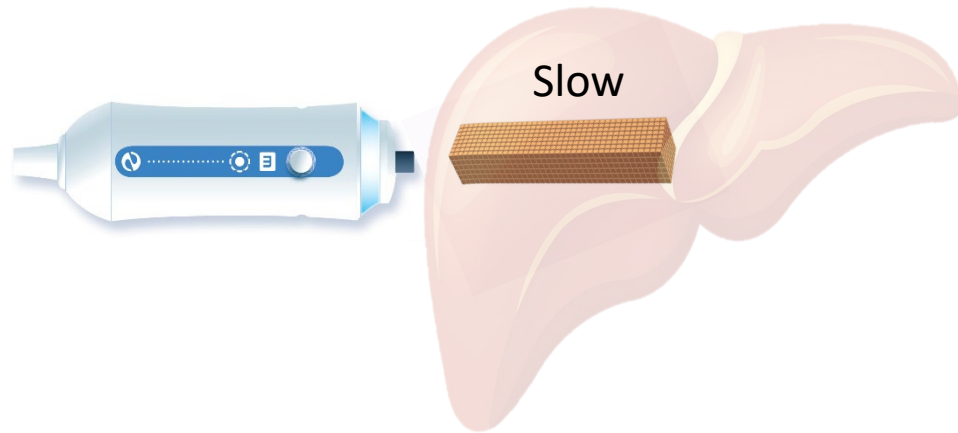


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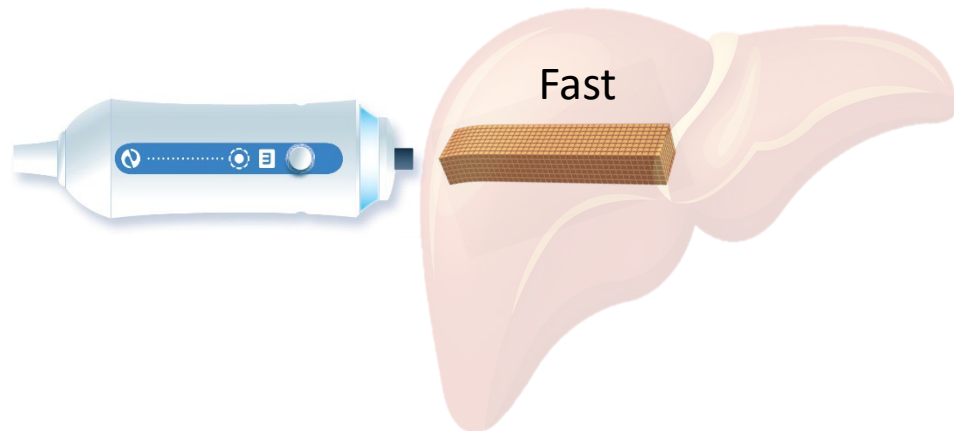


Photograph by author, 2026

How does a FibroScan® work?



**Low Stiffness=
Healthy Liver**



**High Stiffness=
Fibrotic Liver**

- Shear wave speed correlates to stiffness
- Stiffness correlates to fibrosis level

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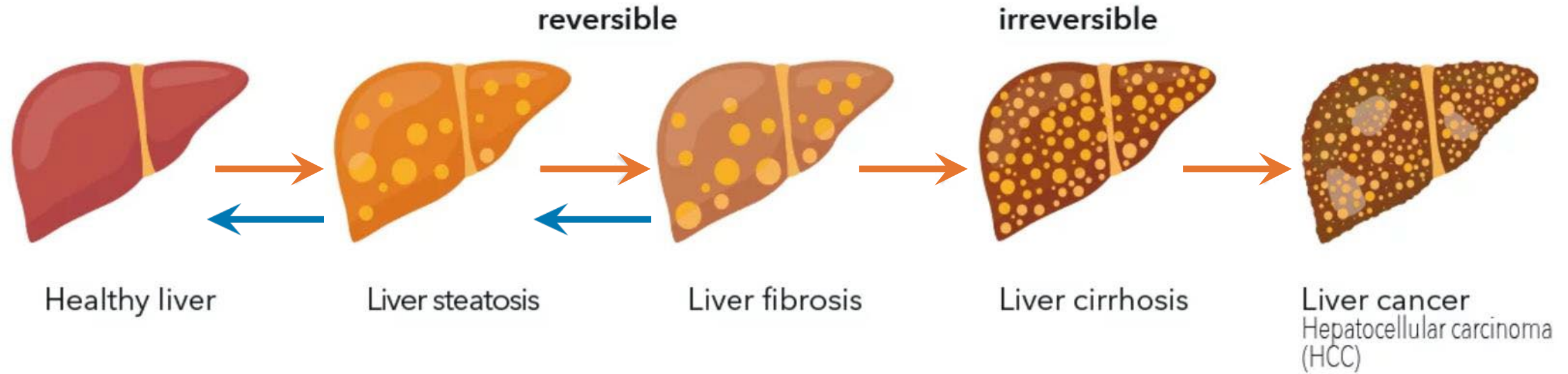


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Liver Disease Progression

BACKGROUND & PROBLEM



In the three months prior to project initiation (April 2025), the average waitlist was 67 patients.



Fibroscan® Waiting Room

Note: AI image generated using the prompt "Long line of patients waiting for a FibroScan® at the doctors office".
From Articulate AI, 2026.

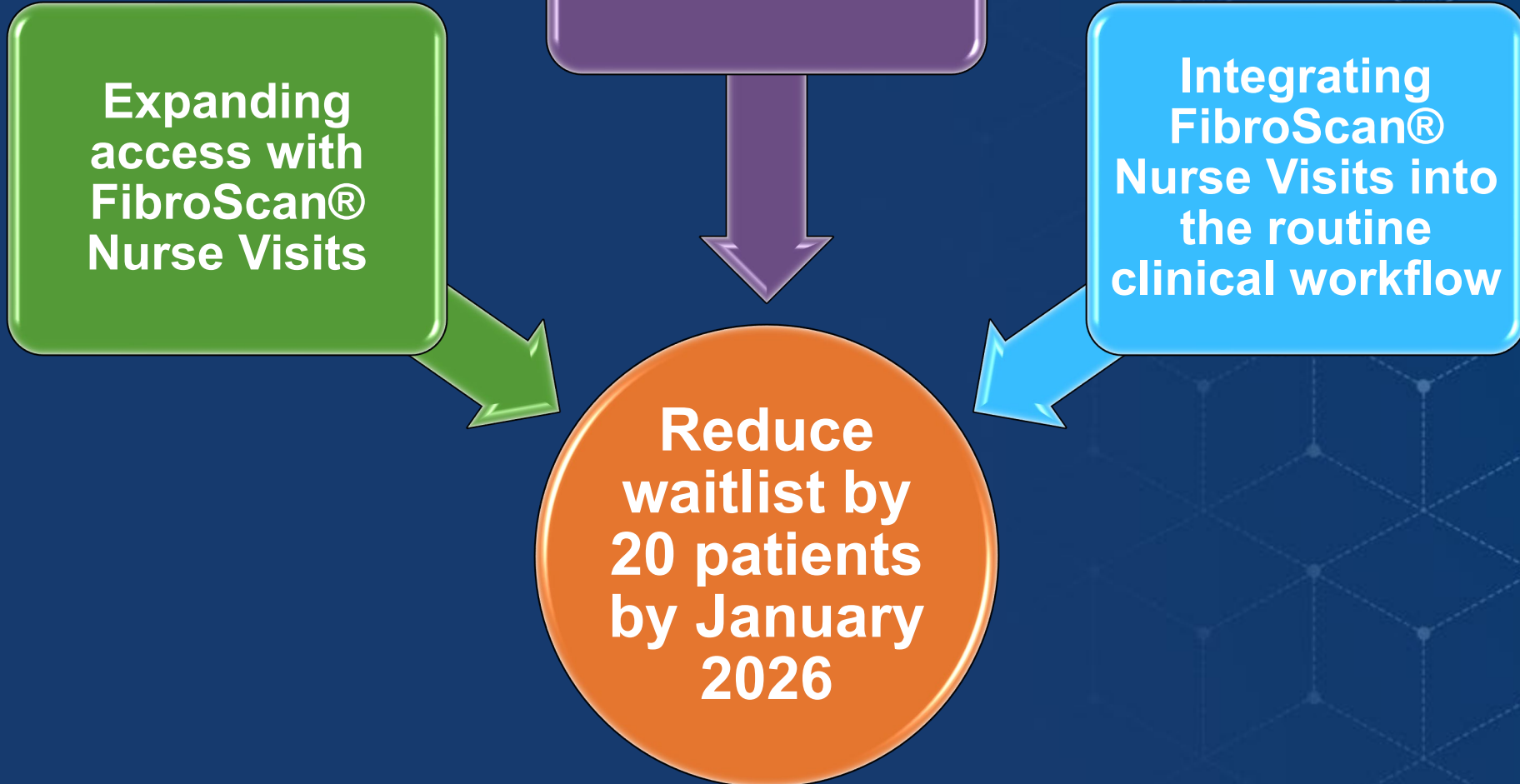
PROJECT AIM

Expanding
access with
FibroScan®
Nurse Visits

Training RNs to
independently
perform high-
quality scans

Integrating
FibroScan®
Nurse Visits into
the routine
clinical workflow

Reduce
waitlist by
20 patients
by January
2026



Method



PLAN FOR NURSE TRAINING



Image courtesy of Echosens, 2026. Used with permission

- **Vendor training**
- **Design a competency-based program**
- **Supervised practice**



Photograph by author, 2026

WHAT WE DID

- Implemented training validation
- Launched a small-scale pilot

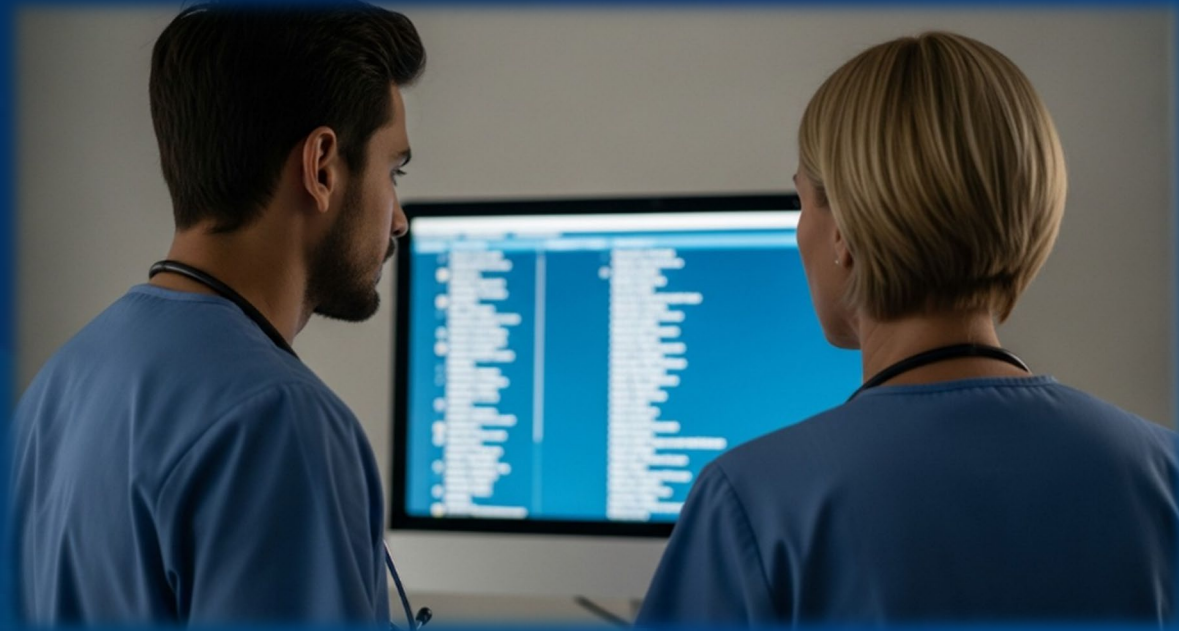
Where is the liver?



Fibroscan Training

Note: AI image generated using the prompt "Doctor training a nurse how to perform a fibroscan® on a patient's liver". From Articulate AI, 2026.

WHAT WAS STUDIED



Fibroscan® Waitlist

Note: AI image generated using the prompt "Picture of two nurses looking at a computer screen with a list of names that are blurred. Soft lighting, their faces are both towards the computer screen". From Articulate AI, 2026.

- **Nurse knowledge and comfort**
- **Monitored waitlist volume and scheduling capacity**
- **Gathered feedback on feasibility, workflow and workload impact**

ACTION

- Refinements based on findings
- Began gradual scale-up
- Planned full implementation to perform 16 scans per week



Photograph by author, 2026

Results

FibroScan® Access Increased

Provider-only workflows allowed for 469 FibroScan® appointments in 2025.

With nurse-performed scans, annual capacity is projected to reach 832 appointments.

An increase of 363 appointments



Patient Waitlist Decreased

The average waitlist decreased from a baseline of 67 patients (April 2025) to an average of 29 patients after implementation (January 2026)

Reduction of 33 patients



Provider Availability Improved

Transitioning routine FibroScans® to nurse visits will increase access to:

469 Provider Appointments Annually

Implications & Conclusion

- Frees Hepatologist appointments for higher-complexity patient visits
- As GLP-1 use grows, this model positions our team to meet rising demand for liver health assessment in patients treated for MASH
- Barriers include the cost of vendor training



Fibroscan® Waiting Room

Note: AI image generated using the prompt "Short line of patients waiting for a FibroScan® at the doctor's office". From Articulate AI, 2026.

The **FibroScan® Nurse Visit Model is sustainable and scalable, supporting practice at the top of the nurse's scope.**

References

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Questions?