The Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care is a nonprofit treatment center in Harlem, New York, dedicated to providing high-quality cancer care to all in need. Founded in 2000 by Dr. Harold Freeman with the combined resources of Polo Ralph Lauren Foundation and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the center offers preventive, diagnosis, and treatment services for most cancer types with a special focus on breast health services, lung cancer screenings and preventative care.

**THE CHALLENGE**

Most of the patients served by the Ralph Lauren Center are very sick and present co-morbidities. Each day, between 10 and 15 patients receive chemotherapy treatment and diagnostic tests must be performed to determine the patient’s health status prior to inform treatment plans.* This meant sending patients to a commercial laboratory for testing. According to Lisa Pfail, Director of Clinical Services for the Ralph Lauren Center, this created a problem. “The turnaround time for test results was 24 hours. It wasn’t convenient for the patient and we never knew when we would see the patients again,” she explains.

**THE SOLUTION**

To address this problem and improve patient care, the Ralph Lauren Center decided to institute onsite testing capability with the Piccolo Xpress® chemistry analyzer. “Every chemotherapy patient now gets a Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP) on the Piccolo Xpress during their visit,” Pfail says, explaining that patients arrive 15 to 30 minutes early to accommodate testing. “We have results within a few minutes and the physician can make a determination as to what the next course of treatment will be for the patient.”

**THE RESULT**

Pfail says on-site testing with the Piccolo Xpress has made a real impact on patient care.

“It is so much easier for patients because they don’t always have the time to run to another lab. It also helps with patient compliance because real-time results and discussions with the physician increase adherence to treatment plans.”

* Refers to the Ralph Lauren Center only.

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**ABOUT THE PICCOLO SYSTEM**

The Piccolo Xpress® Chemistry Analyzer is an advanced, easy-to-use, portable blood analyzer that provides healthcare professionals with access to real-time, lab-quality results within minutes, rather than hours. The Piccolo system offers the most CLIA-Waived Tests on a single platform and provides the only CLIA-waived comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP) on the market.

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