

Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System Newsletter

May 2017 Edition



Preparing for Changes Together with WCRS and the Reporting Community

“A national system of cancer registries can help us understand the disease better and use our resources to the best effect in prevention and treatment.” Donna E. Shalala, PhD, Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Cancer Registries Amendment Act, which established CDC’s National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). The Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System will be using this milestone as an opportunity to share with you the importance and impact of the program to the cancer registry field throughout the year.



As such, registry significance will be a key focus for the first ever Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System (WCRS) Workshop. The new WCRS Workshop will be held in October 2017 in Madison, WI, and will include a focus session on WCRS updates. Stay tuned for a complete agenda!



We are entering a season of change and hope to see the sun and warm weather descend upon us. As we cross the threshold of the second half of 2017, we bring with us the challenges to understanding the complex American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Summary Stage staging classification rules.

To meet these challenges together with the reporting community, WCRS staff will continue to identify and make available training resources. In addition to regional trainings, WCRS will be introducing an onboarding process for cancer reporters, including a checklist of required “to-do’s” to be completed by facilities prior to one-on-one trainings. This will include recorded presentations of resources, abstracting, staging and quizzes, along with a series of SEER Educate modules.

This will enable WCRS to deliver education and training to many facilities throughout the year while maximizing cancer reporter and WCRS staff time.

Thank you for your dedication to reporting quality and complete cancer cases as we move forward to meet the many changes in 2018. Please make sure that you review the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) highlights included in this newsletter.

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NCRA Highlights—Big Changes are on the Horizon...

Nancy Sonnleitner and Laura Stephenson both attended the National Cancer Registrars Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C. this past April. The big takeaway from this year's meeting was the announcement of five major changes to reporting requirements that will affect all of us starting with cases diagnosed in 2018:

1. AJCC TNM staging is moving to the 8th Edition. This new edition has more chapters and many changes to existing chapters on what data items are required to assign a stage group. *WCRC and other state registries are reviewing the changes and will decide before the end of 2017 on any potential changes to our TNM collection reporting requirement based on type of facility reporting or type of case.* Major changes to the 8th Edition include:

- a. New exceptions for melanoma T category.
- b. New exceptions for breast T category.
- c. Clarifications on assigning stage with incomplete information.
- d. Uncertainty rules do not apply for cancer registry data.
- e. Differences between what the physician can document and what the CTR is allowed to record are better explained.
- f. Grade rules are now defined in each chapter.
- g. LVI definitions have been updated.
- h. New in situ neoplasia and noninvasive papillary carcinoma T category.
- i. ENE extranodal extension definition clarified.
- j. And more...

2. The SEER Multiple Primary and Histology rules are being updated and will be called the **Solid Tumor Rules 2018**. This will affect all Wisconsin reporters and will replace the current MP\H rules. Some of the major changes include:

- a. The rules will be in text format only, no flow chart or table format will be available.
- b. There is no change on how the rules are used (come to the first situation that fits your case and STOP).
- c. The histology tables will be expanded.
- d. WHO grade tables are being added to the CNS sites.
- e. Tables for nonreportable neoplasms are being added.
- f. More notes and examples will be added.
- g. The Head and Neck chapter will add tables listing common histology by subsite.
- h. SEER is creating a free-standing Solid Tumor Database, similar to the Hematopoietic Database format, but it will be a reference only. It will include biomarkers, treatment, signs/symptoms, recurrence and metastases, and other items by site.

3. The World Health Organization is updating a number of items in the ICD-O3 code book. Changes include:

- a. Updates to terminology and other items for CNS, breast, head & neck, urinary, GYN, lung, soft tissue/bone and male genital sites.
- b. 24 new histology codes.
- c. 16 changes to behavior codes.
- d. 54 preferred name updates.
- e. Thymoma will now always be coded to malignant behavior, /3, regardless if it is stated to be 'malignant.'
- f. Previously nonreportable gastrointestinal terms will now be reported as in situ, behavior /2.
- g. There is an urgency to implement these changes as they are already included in TNM 8th Edition and CAP protocols.

4. Site-Specific Factors (SSFs) – The standard setters are discontinuing the SSF approach starting with 2018 diagnoses. Discrete data items will be developed:

- a. Items will be more flexible – meaning they will have different field lengths (currently all 3 digits in length).
- b. The item will be defined to code as the actual data item, not the current CS SSF translation.
- c. Field names will match the data, instead of being named SSF1, SSF2, etc. (where the definition changes depending on the site).
- d. Newly recommended SSFs in the AJCC 8th Edition, that are not required currently, will not be implemented until 2019.

5. The SEER Summary Staging manual is being updated and it will be called SEER Summary Stage 2018. There haven't been any changes to the SEER Summary manual since the AJCC 5th Edition; this updated manual will be based on changes made to the AJCC 6th through 8th editions.

All of the above changes will require new training, coding manuals, abstracting software, software edits, updates to policy and procedure and reporting requirements. Nancy and Laura have their work cut out for them! WCRC staff will keep all reporters updated on the status of new software, training, and other important notices regarding these upcoming changes.

Congratulations to Nancy on Receiving the State Health Educator Award!

As some of you may know, on April 20th, 2017, our Nancy was honored with the prestigious 2017 Barbara A. Lange Memorial Award in Health Education. The Barbara A. Lange Award is presented annually by the Wisconsin Health Education Network (WHEN) to Wisconsin public health professionals who demonstrate outstanding leadership and advocacy for health education and health promotion in Wisconsin, who empower and support others to enhance health through educational strategies, and who demonstrate a commitment to health education and health promotion.

Nancy was one of only three Wisconsin public health professionals honored with this meaningful award in the state this year. Nancy is most deserving of this recognition from Dr. Gary Gilmore and WHEN. Also, Nancy would not have received such an award without the incredible letters of support and kind words from Sara Biese, Laura Stephenson, Dr. Goggins and Vicki Peshek; Robin Malicki was honored to nominate Nancy.



Robin Malicki, WCRS Program Director

2017 Regional Training Schedule

WCRS has modified the content of our trainings (especially the specific aspects of staging/coding and the level of complexity) to reflect the training goals and needs of attendees on both a facility and statewide level. Four regional trainings will be conducted in 2017. Based on the needs and feedback from previous workshops, regional trainings will be two-day sessions instead of a one-day session, as held in the past. Also, we will be catering the trainings to meet the reporters at their experience level.

Objectives of Regional Training sessions will include:

Day 1 – Focus on novice cancer reporters

- Review of WCRS Coding manual
- Abstract Plus software
- Basic abstraction of cancer cases
- General staging rules

Day 2 – Focus on advanced cancer reporters

- Site-specific primary coding rules
- AJCC Staging
- SEER Summary Stage
- Hands-on exercises

2017 Training Dates and Locations

June 22nd/23rd	July 24th/25th
Bellin Hospital	American Cancer Society Office
Green Bay, WI	Waukesha, WI
August 14th/15th	September 20th/21st
WCRS Office	Franciscan Skemp Healthcare
Madison, WI	La Crosse, WI

The modified structure of the trainings will provide an opportunity for reporters to participate in workshops tailored to their specific levels of expertise and interest.

If you have training suggestions or concerns, please contact Nancy Sonnleitner at Nancy.Sonnleitner@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

This Just In—Updated steps for submitting questions to the CAnswer Forum

1. Education and Training Coordinator (ETC) receives question from state reporter, and reviews/determines if Q&A is currently posted on the CAnswer Forum.
2. If not posted on the CAnswer Forum, then ETC will submit the questions to the CAnswer Forum.
3. If ETC is having difficulty resolving the question via the Forum, they will submit the question to the CDC's NPCR Cancer Staging mailbox-cancerstaging@cdc.gov.
4. NPCR representative will ensure that there is no record from NPCR's perspective on the question being submitted and answered previously.
5. NPCR representative will then resubmit the question to the CAnswer Forum and will monitor the site for a response.
6. NPCR representative will send follow-up to the ETC originally posing the question, as well as other potentially interested staff and ETCs.

Temporary Hold on Feedback Summary Reports for 2017

Due to the delayed release of the final version 16D edit metafile to the 1st quarter of 2017 (which continued to prevent many facilities from being able to submit their 2016 cases), and WCRS not being able to release the Version 16 Abstract Plus software until March of this year, WCRS will not send out the Data Quality Feedback Summary Forms in July. The forms track timeliness for the last year and completeness of 2016 cases. The results for most facilities would indicate an artificially low completeness and timeliness rate, due to software delays, and would not reflect actual facility performance.

WCRS will still run the data for the reports and will contact facilities that are behind in submitting pre-2016 diagnoses.

If your facility wants to know your timeliness and completeness status, you can contact WCRS at any time for a snapshot summary report that can be created for you "on the fly."

Reporting Improvements from the Pediatric and Young Adult Reporting Requirement

The most recent pediatric Call for Data was due to CDC on April 30th. Preliminary results indicate the number of cases reported within 30, 60 and 120 days has improved quite a bit from the October 2016 submission. Thank you to all of the reporting facilities for submitting more timely information!

Number of Cases Submitted to CDC for the October 2016 Call for Data

Days from Diagnosis to Date Received at WCRS	0-30 days	31-60	61-120	121-180	181-270	271-365	365+	Total
2015 dx	6	7	31	28	61	59	46	238
2016 dx	22	30	26	14	1	n/a	n/a	93

Number of Cases Submitted to CDC for the April 2017 Call for Data

Days from Diagnosis to Date Received at WCRS	0-30 days	31-60	61-120	121-180	181-270	271-365	365+	Total
2015 dx	6	6	32	28	62	63	75	272
2016 dx	62	70	60	26	48	46	14	326

Please remember to keep sending in your pediatric and young adult files every month. If you are diagnosing pediatric and young adult cases but are not currently reporting, please contact [Robin Malicki](#) immediately to identify an appropriate reporting solution.

Reporting Guidance and Updates

General Updates

When assigning T, N, M, and stage group for in situ cancers, please remember to follow the general rules on page 12 of the AJCC 7th Edition Manual. **Both** Clinical and Pathologic stage should be coded as: pTIS **cNO** cM0 Stage Group 0. WCRS staff recently encountered a number of errors on this when consolidating 2016 cases. Facilities are mistakenly coding the pathologic stage as pTIS **pNX** cM0 Stage Group 0.



Override usage: Some computer edits identify errors. Others indicate possible errors that require manual review for resolution. Please make sure that you are reviewing data fields before applying overrides to an abstract.

Updated WCRS Coding manual and neoplasm reporting forms are on the WCRS website.

When contacting WCRS staff with edit questions, it is extremely helpful to forward us a screenshot of the edit along with accompanied screen shots of the coded field and text. This can be done by using the snipping tool located under All Programs/Accessories on your computer, and then copy/paste into a Word document or directly into an email.

Be on the Lookout for your Death Certificate Only Upload!

Kim Ortman is continuing to follow up with facilities to determine the reportable status of outstanding 2014 DCOs.

WCRS is beginning to process the 2015 Wisconsin death file and identify DCOs for 2015. We anticipate sending out the first round of 2015 DCO announcements in late June; please be on the lookout for your DCO upload to your Web Plus account.



A blast email will be sent with more details once the data are ready to upload.

Software Updates

Updated V16D Edit Metafile is available!

WCRS has an updated edit metafile that contains all of the corrections included in the latest release – Version 16D. The metafile was sent to all vendors on March 8th. WCRS does not know how and when facilities will receive the update from their vendors; in the meantime, if you have the ability to install the Wisconsin metafile independent of a vendor release upgrade, contact Laura Stephenson, Laura.Stephenson@dhs.wisconsin.gov, and she will upload it to your Web Plus account.

Abstract Plus 3.6 Released (Version 16 NAACCR Layout)

WCRS released Abstract Plus 3.6 in March 2017. This upgrade contains all of the new data items and edits for 2016 and 2017 diagnosed cases. This is an auto-upgrade, similar to the upgrade from 3.4 to 3.5. Facilities currently using 3.5 will NOT have to uninstall Abstract Plus prior to executing the upgrade.

All facilities using Abstract Plus are required to upgrade to this new version. Facilities MUST be using Version 3.5 to upgrade to Version 3.6. If your facility is on an older version of Abstract Plus (Version 3.4.0 or earlier) please contact Laura Stephenson. The release was announced via blast email and specific instructions on how to download and install the upgrade are on the WCRS website reporter page at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcrs/reporterinfo/index.htm>.

Reminder of Step 2 for Abstract Plus Users; Upload your file to Web Plus!

Did you know that sending cases to WCRS is a two-step process?



Step 1: Export your completed cases from Abstract Plus.

The first step is to create the file that you need to submit to the state. The Export function in Abstract Plus does that very thing; it creates a text file (.txt) with all of the complete cases that have not been submitted to the state in the past. Please refer to the Abstract Plus user manual for specific instructions on how to create and name this file.

Step 2: Upload the Abstract Plus Export File to Web Plus.

Once you have your file exported from Abstract Plus, you need to **submit** that file to WCRS using the Web Plus File Upload feature. Web Plus is the secure web site to which you upload the .txt file from Abstract Plus. The Web Plus system will send you an automatic email response indicating the file was successfully uploaded.

Web Plus Version 3.6 for Version 16 NAACCR Layout Files

The Web Plus secure web site application used to upload file submissions to WCRS was upgraded to Version 3.6 on May 8th. Facilities submitting files in Version 16 layout must now choose the NAACCR V16.x File Radio Button (as shown to the right), instead of the non-NAACCR file button.

Web Plus

Home New Upload Previous Upload

Upload Abstract Bundle

Select your upload type, NAACCR v16.0, Non-NAACCR, or NAACCR v15.0. If you have selected uploading a NAACCR version 160 file, edits will be automatically run upon upload of the file and the file will be uploaded and submitted for edits processing by your central registry using the Web Plus Application.

NAACCR V16.x File Non-NAACCR File NAACCR V15 File

Select a file to upload:

Comment

WCRS is Now Accepting 2017 Cases

At this time, there are no new reporting requirements for cases diagnosed in 2017 (there were enough changes for 2016 cases, don't you think?). Therefore, WCRS is accepting cases with 2017 diagnoses. If you have complete 2017 cases that are ready to submit, they may be submitted to WCRS using the current edits and software. If you are unclear on the requirements for 2016 and 2017 cases, please download the required data item list from the WCRS website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcrs/reporterinfo/codingresources.htm>.

Calls for Data 2017—It's Not Too Early to Send in Your Cases!

CDC and NAACCR Calls for Data are due December 1, 2017. This year, WCRS will include all reportable cancers diagnosed 1995 – 2015. Additionally, WCRS must report all 2016 cases to CDC by January 31, 2018. While that sounds like a long time from now, it will be upon us before you know it.

WCRS encourages all facilities that have not yet sent in all cases diagnosed through 2015 to submit those cases as soon as possible. Cases received before May 31, 2017 can be included in the DCO match for 2015 deaths and unreported cancers, thereby potentially reducing the number of DCOs your physicians and facilities receive this year.

2016 cases must be submitted by October 31, 2017 to be included in the January 2018 CDC submission. The new AJCC TNM staging data items require much more manual consolidation. WCRS will need extra time this year to prepare the Call for Data file, which, in turn, means we need your cases as soon as possible so we have time to accurately consolidate and process them. If you have questions on the Calls for Data, please contact Laura Stephenson.

