

MPH Rules Update

Adapted from the NAACCR Narrative, Winter 2007 Edition

The new multiple primary and histology coding rules are effective for malignant tumors diagnosed on and after January 1, 2007. One of the main concerns expressed by cancer registrars throughout the US and Canada has been whether they would have access to adequate training prior to the implementation date.

In September 2005 and August 2006, SEER and NPCR conducted Train the Trainers Workshops. Ninety-nine participants from 48 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Palau, and Puerto Rico completed the training. To date, these trainers have reported 59 trainings that have taken place in the US and Canada during the fall months of 2006. More than 3100 registrars from 47 states and 10 Canadian provinces have participated in these workshops.

A list of trainers has been posted on the SEER website at

<http://seer.cancer.gov> to assist cancer registrar association meeting planners.

There is also a calendar of trainings posted on the SEER website. The trainers will be entering the date and location of each of the workshops they will be conducting. Registrars are urged to use this calendar to find training events located in their region. Each event listed on the calendar will include an e-mail address to obtain further information about the training.

In addition to the local and regional workshops, central and hospital-based cancer registrars have participated in a series of live web-based trainings conducted by SEER (starting October 25, 2006 concluding April 6, 2007). The series includes an introduction to the Rules; site-specific training with a practicum for each of the rule sets, malignant brain, breast, colon, head and neck, kidney, lung, melanoma, other sites, and the urinary

system; and the new data items. The live sessions are being recorded and posted on the SEER website.

There is no charge for viewing these sessions; no password or username is needed to open the presentation. A total of 22 CEUs have been awarded by NCRA and a certificate will be available online upon completion of the practicum. We encourage registrars to use these recorded sessions, especially when they are not able to attend in-person training or when they feel the need to review information from an in-person training or when they feel the need to review information from an in-person training.

The recorded sessions will remain on the website throughout 2007 to support registrars. After they have started using the rules, registrars will be able to access these training modules and practicums as a review or refresher course.

Sumter Regional Hospital

By Joy Thompson, GATRA

As you know, Sumter Regional Hospital was heavily damaged by a tornado on March 1st. Several of you have e-mailed and called asking if we had any information on the status of Cecilia Fountain, the registrar at Sumter Regional and a fellow GATRA member.

Cecilia lives in Cordele, GA and her home was not damaged during the storm. However, the hospital suffered extreme damage. The estimated time to rebuild the facility is currently six months to one year. We don't know at this time what effect that will have on Cecilia's position in the registry, i.e. whether they will be relocating to a temporary location or completely shut down during the duration of the rebuilding process.

The hospital did have insurance against disruption of services and are receiving federal aid, but it is unknown at this time how long either of these will last or to what level they are covering employee salaries and such.

Currently, Cecilia is at Phoebe Putney in Albany, helping nurses sort out the oncology charts that were damaged by water in the storm. Carol Crosby will be working with Cecilia in the area of data submission. Betty Gentry will be keeping in contact with Carol on what specific needs the registry might have in terms of help with data submission.

The Executive Board has also discussed other ways in which GATRA might help. Several ideas were considered

and the final decision was for GATRA to pay for the cost for Cecilia to attend the GATRA Fall Meeting as well as providing a gift card in the amount of \$500 for the purchase of office or other supplies needed to re-establish the registry office.

I'd like to ask that you all please remember Cecilia, the other hospital employees, and all the residents of this area in your thoughts and prayers. The level of devastation is high and it will take quite a while for this area to recover.

If you would like to help, please contact me (JoyT@askcnet.org), Betty Gentry (bagentry@dhr.state.ga.us), or Carol Crosby (ctcrosby@dhr.state.ga.us).

Special Bulletins

The National Cancer Institute, in collaboration with the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, is pleased to announce that the first of two training modules for the 2007 Multiple

Primary/Histology rules is now available on the NCI training web site at: www.training.seer.cancer.gov. CEUs are being requested from the NCRA for completing this module at any time during

the next six months. The second module which will consist of site-specific exercises should be available shortly.

Welcome Wagon

I just recently moved from Pleasant City, Ohio on February 1, 2007. I worked at Genesis Health Systems in Zanesville Ohio. I worked there about 18 months as the Cancer Registrar. I was responsible for the workings of the Cancer

Registry Dept and I loved it. So when I started to move to Camden County Georgia I started looking into this area for a position and I found this wonderful position here. I plan to sit for my CTR in September. I have been married for 16 wonderful years to a

great guy. We have 4 married children and 11 grandchildren. I raise Airdales and have Chihuahuas as my lap babies.

Carol Joiner
Southeast Georgia Health System

Position Open at GCCS for a Quality Control Editor, Sr.

Job Description:

Review and edit cancer data from field staff and participating hospitals to ascertain the accuracy of the demographic, diagnostic, treatment, and follow-up codes. Consolidate data from multiple source records to create one accurate cancer record for each cancer incidence. Duties may include abstracting pathology reports and limited medical records. Position may require coordinating specific editor duties.

Minimum Qualifications:

A bachelor's degree. Two years of related experience in tumor registry, medical records, or nursing. Certified as a Tumor Registrar.

- Please go to the web and use following link: https://psofthr.cc.emory.edu/hrprod8ga/start_recruit_view.html
- The position number is 206374 and can be entered under section "key words". This will highlight the job title which you can click on to bring up the job description as stated above.
- To apply for the position click on "Add to Career Basket".
- On the next screen click on "Review Career Basket".
- On the next screen click on "Apply for Careers in Basket". Be sure to complete entire application.

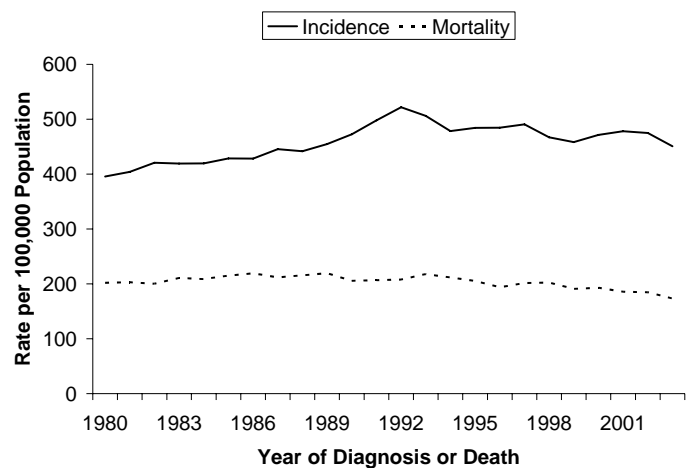
We are looking for highly qualified CTRs to become a part of the GCCS team!

Cancer Stat Bite

By Chrissy McNamara, GCCR Epidemiologist

- The overall age-adjusted cancer incidence rate for Metro-Atlanta* (1999-2003) is 466.6 per 100,000 population. This is similar to the overall rate for Georgia (463.3 per 100,000). Between 1980 and 1992, incidence rates increased by about 2.7% per year from 395.6 to 522.0 per 100,000 population. Between 1992 and 2003, the rates decreased by about 1.2% per year to 450.7 per 100,000 population.
- The overall age-adjusted cancer mortality rate for Metro-Atlanta* (1999-2003) is 185.2 per 100,000 population. This is significantly lower than the overall rate for Georgia (201.1 per 100,000 population). Between 1980 and 1989, mortality rates increased by about 0.1% per year from 202.0 to 219.3 per 100,000 population. Since 1989, the rates have been decreasing by about 1.5% per year to 173.3 per 100,000 population.

Cancer Incidence and Mortality, Metro-Atlanta*, 1980-2003



* Metro-Atlanta includes Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett Counties.

FAQ's

Q: In the presentation on the 2007 multiple primary and histology coding rules, you stated that the histology should be coded using information from the final pathologic diagnosis, but grade/differentiation can be coded using other information from the pathology report. Please clarify.

A: At the 2007 multiple primary and histology coding train the trainer session, it was emphasized that when coding the histology, only information from the final pathologic diagnosis should be used. It was also stated that those rules do not apply to coding the grade/differentiation.

Q: When using the 2007 multiple primary rules, if the site-specific timing rule states that 'tumors more than 60 days apart are multiple primaries', is 60 days the same as 2 months?

A: No. We can't assume that 60 days and 2 months are the same because not every month has 30 days.

Q: In the presentation on the 2007 multiple primary and histology coding rules, you presented a list of ambiguous terms. You stated that there is no longer a 'no negative' list. Does this just apply to the multiple primary and histology coding rules?

A: Yes. The list of ambiguous terms documented in the 2007 Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Manual is only used for multiple primaries and histology coding. There are different lists of ambiguous terms for casefinding and staging.

Q: In the presentation on the 2007 multiple primary and histology coding rules, you stated that the histology should be coded using information from the final pathologic diagnosis. Can we use information from 'comments' on the path report?

A: If comments are added to further clarify the final diagnosis, you may want to use that information when coding the histology. Please remember 'comments' are not the same as 'microscopic description'.

Mark Your Calendars...

NCRA Annual Conference

*Rolling Out Advances through Research
Professionalism, Education and Advocacy*

April 22-25, 2007

Las Vegas Hilton

Las Vegas, Nevada

Cancer Registry Training:

*Principles and Practice of Cancer
Registration, Surveillance, and Control*

July 23-27, 2007

*Complete details are available at <http://www.sph.emory.edu/GCCS>
Financial assistance is available. Contact your regional
coordinator.*

Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry
Georgia Department of Human Resources
2 Peachtree St NW 14th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303-3142

Thank You Note from the Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry

GCCR thanks the following hospitals for submitting cancer data at least two months out of three (December '06; January and February '07).

Hospitals Reported Three Months Out of Three		
Appling Health Care System	Evans Memorial Hospital	Peach Regional Medical Center
Athens Regional Medical Center	Fairview Park Hospital	Perry Hospital
Atlanta Medical Center	Fannin Regional Hospital	Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
Augusta Plastic Surgery Assoc, PC	Flint River Community Hospital	Phoebe Worth Medical Center
Augusta State Medical Prison	Floyd Medical Center	Piedmont Hospital
Bacon County Health Services	Gordon Hospital	Polk Medical Center
Berrien County Hospital	Grady General Hospital	Redmond Regional Medical Ctr
Bleckley Memorial Hospital	Grady Health System	Rockdale Hospital
Brooks County Hospital	Gwinnett Health System	Screven County Hospital
Burke County Hospital	Hamilton Medical Center	SE Georgia Health Sys – B'wick
Candler County Hospital	Harbin Clinic	SE Georgia Health Sys – Camden
Candler Health System	Hart County Hospital	Smith Northview Hospital
Cartersville Medical Center	Henry Medical Center	South Fulton Medical Center
Charlton Memorial Hospital	Hillandale Hospital	South Georgia Medical Center
Chatuge Regional Hospital	Houston Medical Center	Southern Regional Medical Center
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta	Hutcheson Medical Center	Spalding Regional Hospital
Clinch Memorial Hospital	Irwin County Hospital	St Joseph's Hospital – Atlanta
Cobb Memorial Hospital	Jasper Memorial Hospital	St Joseph's Hospital – Augusta
Coffee Regional Medical Center	Jeff Davis Hospital	St Joseph's Candler Health Sys
Coliseum Health System	Jefferson County Hospital	St Mary's Health Care System
Coliseum Northside Hospital	Jenkins County Hospital	Stephens County Hospital
Colquitt Regional Medical Center	John D. Archbold Memorial Hosp	Sumter Regional Hospital
Columbus Regional Health Care Sys	Kindred Hospital	SW Georgia Regional Med Ctr
Crisp Regional Hospital	Louis Smith Memorial Hospital	Tanner Health System
Decatur Medical Center	Medical Center of Central Georgia	Taylor Regional Hospital
DeKalb Medical Center	Medical College of Georgia	Tift Regional Medical Center
Doctor's Hospital Augusta	Memorial Health Univ Med Ctr	Union General Hospital
Doctor's Hospital Columbus	Memorial Hospital and Manor	University Hospital
Dodge County Hospital	Minnie G Boswell Memorial Hospital	VA Medical Center – Atlanta
Dorminy Medical Center	Mitchell County Hospital	VA Medical Center – Dublin
Early Memorial Hospital	Monroe County Hospital	Walton Medical Center
East Georgia Regional Med Ctr	Morgan Memorial Hospital	Warm Springs Medical Center
Effingham County Hospital	Mountainside Medical Center	Washington County Reg Med Ctr
Elbert Memorial Hospital	NE Georgia Medical Center	Wayne Memorial Hospital
Emory Adventist Hospital	Newnan Hospital	Wellstar Health System
Emory Crawford W Long Hospital	Newton General Hospital	West Georgia Health System
Emory Eastside Medical Center	North Fulton Regional Med Ctr	Wildwood Lifestyle Center & Hosp
Emory University Hospital	Northside Hospital	Wills Memorial Hospital
Hospitals Reported Two Months Out of Three		
Barrow Community Hospital	McDuffie Regional Medical Center	Satilla Regional Medical Center
BJC Medical Center	Meadows Regional Med Center	Select Specialty Hospital
Calhoun Memorial Hospital	Murray Medical Center	St Francis Hospital
Chestatee Regional Hospital	North Georgia Medical Center	Stewart Webster Hospital
Donalsonville Hospital	Oconee Regional Medical Center	Sylvan Grove Hospital
Fayette Community Hospital	Palmyra Medical Center	Tattnall Memorial Hospital
Habersham County Medical Ctr	Radiation Oncology Services	Telfair Regional Medical Center

New CTRs

The following candidate successfully passed the CTR Exam in September 2006 and formally became a Certified Tumor Registrar:

- Flora Beard – St Joseph's Candler Health System

Congratulations!