Cancer Registry Newsletter
December 2023

Registry Updates

Indiana State Cancer Registry is forming a Registry Advisory Council (RAC) to serve as a collective voice of professionals working together to evaluate the operations of Indiana State Cancer Registry and inform program improvement. One seat is reserved for a Certified Tumor Registrar who can self-nominate from among Indiana's health facilities. The Registry Advisory Council plans to have a reserve list of interested professionals who can be added to the council later on a rotating basis. The council will meet quarterly in a virtual format. If you would like to contribute your voice to improve state cancer registry operations, please email your CV with at least one recommendation source to Patrick Sweany at PSweany@health.in.gov.

Get your CEs! The NAACCR webinars and monthly IDOH Webinar series are available at no cost! Earn 1 category A CEU per webinar and get your required CEs!

ISCRA Fall Educational Conference Recap

The 2023 Indiana State Cancer Registrars Association Fall Educational Conference was held Nov. 9-10, in Indianapolis. This hybrid conference was hosted by Registry Partners Inc. and included activities, door prizes, and a silent auction. Presenters shared information on a variety of topics including diet and nutrition for cancer patients, and disease processes. Indiana State Cancer Registry director, Ainur Aiypkhanova, was in attendance and shared changes coming in 2024. Melissa Chapman presented on abstracting updates and common coding errors.

The Truth About Text

Abstractors are strongly encouraged to document all workup, first course treatment, and pertinent findings. Text is needed to justify the codes selected for the data items and to record information that is not coded at all. The text is used for quality control and special studies.

Dx Procedures X-rays/Scans

- Record documentation from all X-ray, scans, and/or other imaging examinations that provide information about the malignancy or extent of disease.
- Include, as applicable: Dates, primary site, histology, tumor location, tumor size, lymph nodes, positive and negative findings, and distant disease or metastasis.

Dx Procedures Lab Tests

- Record documentation from laboratory examinations other than cytology or histopathology. Tests can include tumor markers, serum and urine electrophoresis, special studies, etc.
- Include, as applicable: Type of laboratory test/specimen(s), date(s) of test(s), and positive and negative findings.

History and Physical

- Record documentation from the history and physical examination about the history and clinical description of the current tumor.
- Include, as applicable: Date of physical exam; age, sex, race/ethnicity; history that relates to cancer diagnosis; primary site; histology (if diagnosed prior to this admission); tumor location; tumor size; palpable lymph nodes; positive and negative clinical findings; impression pertaining to cancer diagnosis; and treatment plan.

Surgical Staging Procedures

- Record documentation of all surgical diagnostic and staging procedures.
- Include, as applicable: Dates and descriptions of biopsies and all other surgical procedures from which staging information was derived; number of lymph nodes removed; size of tumor removed; documentation of residual tumor; evidence of invasion of surrounding areas.

Diagnostic Scope Procedures

- Record documentation from endoscopic examinations that provide information for staging and treatment.

Definitive (cancer-directed) treatment

- Record any therapy whose purpose is to *modify, control, remove, or destroy proliferating cancer tissue.* Treatment may be directed toward either the primary or metastatic sites, regardless of the patient's response.
- Record all cancer-directed treatment administered to the patient in the first course of treatment. Include treatment provided in other facilities, palliative treatment, and failed treatments (the patient did not respond) in the appropriate text field (Chemo, Hormone, Immunotherapy, other)
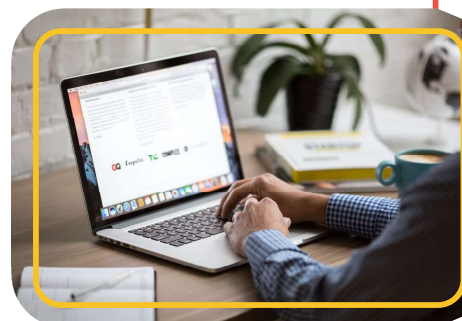
Source: ISCR Policy & Procedure Manual 2023

Upcoming Training

Sign Up for IDOH Monthly Webinar Series, 2024 Updates

When is it? Noon EST on Dec. 28

What is it? Upon completion of this course, attendees will be familiar with the changes going into effect for 2024 diagnosis years. Attendees will demonstrate understanding of these changes through case examples and quizzes and will use the resources available to assist in the coding of these new changes. Attendees will leave this presentation with a newfound confidence for coding with the newly adopted changes for 2024.

Where do I sign up? CLICK THIS LINK

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers