

NHSCR

Registry Report



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Introducing the newest member of the NHSCR!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan M. Swartz, CTR to the position of Cancer Registrar within the NHSCR. Jonathan will be responsible for the abstraction and processing of cancer data from non-registry hospitals and all non-hospital reporting sources. Jonathan comes to us from New Jersey where he worked as a contractor for a cancer-approved hospital after obtaining his CTR credentials last year. Previous to that, Jonathan obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Please join us in welcoming Jonathan to New Hampshire!

Update: New England Study of Environment & Health (NESEH)

This three-year, tri-state undertaking is in its final stages. 664 potentially eligible patients were identified, from which 408 agreed to be interviewed. Abstract data are now being edited for submission to NCI. You will be receiving a more detailed report to each registry in the near future.

In addition to the experience of participating in a national research project, the New England Bladder Study provided a valuable opportunity to examine some of our NHSCR processes as well. None of this could have been done without the collaboration of all the NH cancer registrars. The NESEH research team and NHSCR are most grateful to you all!

Closing of Diagnosis Year 2003 and Death Clearance

We believe almost all the 2003 hospital reports are in from both registry and non-registry hospitals. We are in the process of tracking down rapid cases without a definitive and all the other end-of-diagnostic year issues.

NHSCR has begun death clearance for 2003; the first set of requests for follow-back were sent to physicians at the end of June. We will be starting follow-back to hospitals the last week of July. NHSCR has opened discussion with DHHS to see if we can distribute information from the state mortality files to registry hospitals that perform follow-back.

Error of the Month

When new cases arrive at NHSCR, we run them through GenEdits, a software tool from the CDC that checks for different kinds of errors. The edits we run are those required by the NPCR and include edits developed by COC and SEER. One edit that is coming up a great deal involves ICD Revision Number, Vital Status, Cause of Death, and Date of Last Contact. Please verify you are using the following codes correctly:

- If vital status is '0' (dead) and date of last contact is 1999 or forward, the ICD Revision Number must be '1' (ICD-10).
- If vital status is '1' (alive), then Cause of Death is '0000' (alive) and ICD Revision Number for Cause of Death must be '0' (alive).

Collaborative Stage Updates

New Version 01.02.00 Collaborative Staging and Coding Manual Replacement pages are now available. All cases diagnosed on or after **January 1, 2005** should be coded according to the new tables of Version 01.02.00.

SEER*RX Drug Database Software Now Available

The SEER Program has announced that the SEER*Rx, the cancer registrar's interactive antineoplastic drug database, is now available. This downloadable database replaces SEER Self-instructional Manual Book 8, Antineoplastic Drugs, effective for cases diagnosed **January 1, 2005** and after. SEER*Rx allows you to look up the treatment category for over 1600 drugs and the individual treatment categories for the drugs in over 700 regimens. This program replaces the printed Book 8 (published in 1993) and the update to Book 8 issued in May 2002. There is **NO CHARGE** for this program. For more information and to download the SEER*Rx program, please visit SEER's website: <http://www.seer.cancer.gov/seerrx>

Training Guide for Brain and Central Nervous System Reporting

NHSCR will shortly be sending out to all registrars a new publication from the National Program of Cancer Registries: Data Collection of Primary Central Nervous System Tumors, a training manual. This technical training guide is for health professionals who report data on brain and central nervous system tumors (malignant, benign and borderline).

Mark Your Calendars!!!

The NHSCR Fall meeting will be held **Friday, September 30, 2005**, at the CR Sparx in Bedford, NH. More information to follow.

About Non-registry Hospitals and Non-hospital Reporting Sources

There are currently ten hospitals in New Hampshire with caseloads too small to require a cancer registry of their own. These "non-registry" hospitals diagnose or treat fewer than 105 cancer patients each year. They provide a contact person in their Medical Records or Laboratory Department to identify, through review of pathology and cytology reports and the Disease Index, all cancer cases and to rapid-report these cases to NHSCR.

We have created a website specifically for these institutions which do not support cancer registry software. This electronic reporting method enables non-registry hospitals to more conveniently comply with the rules of rapid reporting. These rapid reports are converted into NAACCR format and loaded directly into our database. The medical records of these electronically transmitted cases will subsequently be reviewed and definitive variables abstracted by NHSCR registrars.

To ensure that all cancer cases diagnosed and treated in NH are identified, we also monitor facilities other than hospitals. These include physicians, path labs, and freestanding outpatient facilities. Most NH dermatologists send information about their melanoma patients directly to us. Some urologists also report their cases. To capture missed cases, we review all NH path labs and Dianon Systems path reports. (Most common cancers found are skin, prostate and bladder cases.) Finally, we receive lists of patients treated for cancer at the Nashua Regional Cancer Center and New Hampshire Oncology-Hematology. Cases seen at these facilities that are not already in NHSCR's database are abstracted by NHSCR staff.

For these reporting sources which do not qualify as "hospital" under current definitions, we are endeavoring to optimize reporting through their affiliated hospitals.

Note: Non-analytic cases, including physician-only cases, are reportable!

Kudos—1

NHSCR received NAACCR Gold for 2005 that included data for 1998-2002. NAACCR estimated our completeness for 2002 at 103.3%. DX years 2000 and 2001 estimated completeness were 99.8% and 99.1% respectively. This achievement would not be possible without the continued effort and dedication of all reporting facilities. **Thank you!!!**



Kudos—2

NHSCR's Bruce Riddle had a paper published in the Spring 2005 issue of *Ethnicity & Disease* (Volume 15, No. 2) that is entitled "On the Coding and Reporting of Race and Ethnicity in New Hampshire for Purposes of Cancer Reporting". Congratulations, Bruce!

DHHS Change

Dr. Jose Montero has been appointed NH State Epidemiologist, succeeding Dr. Jesse Greenblatt. Dr. Montero has served at DHHS for the past six years and previously was head of the State's Communicable Disease program. As State Epidemiologist, Dr. Montero oversees NHSCR at the state level.

Sai Cherala, MD, MPH recently joined NH DHHS as Cancer Epidemiologist in the Bureau of Health Statistics and Data Management. Prior to earning her MPH at the University of Alabama, Dr. Cherala was in clinical practice in India. We look forward to working with both Dr. Montero and Dr. Cherala on NH cancer surveillance projects.

NHSCR Summer Hours

NHSCR Staff are taking time off this summer.

Marcia Berry — July 11-August 8

Christina Robinson— July 18-22

Bruce Riddle— August 8-22

Important Dates

- **Principles of Oncology for Cancer Registry Professionals**
July 25-29, 2005 and December 5-9, 2005
Bolger Center for leadership Development
Potomac, Maryland
<http://seer.cancer.gov/training/oncology>
- **CTR Exam**
Fall Exam Application Deadline: July 31, 2005
Fall Exam Date: September 10 through 24
www.ncra-usa.org/certification/exam.htm
- **NAACCR CTR Exam Readiness Institute**
August 25-26, 2005
Nashville, TN
http://www.naacr.org/index.asp?Col_SectionKey=10&Col_ContentID=65
- **CRANE Workshop**
August, 2005
Women's & Infants Hospital
Providence, RI
<http://crane.crane.org>
- **NHSCR Fall Meeting**
September 30, 2005
CR Sparx
Bedford, NH
- **CRANE Annual Meeting**
November 7-8, 2005
Marlboro, MA
<http://crane.crane.org>
- **NCRA 32nd Annual Educational Conference**
May 4-7, 2006
Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel
Arlington, Virginia (Washington, DC area)
<http://www.ncra-usa.org/conference/index.htm>
- **NAACCR 2006 Annual Meeting**
Date TBA—2006
Regina, Saskatchewan

WE NEED RAPIDS EACH AND EVERY MONTH!

The simplest way to transmit is via the web site: no zipping, no passwords, and secure.

Please contact Bruce Riddle at 603-653-1036 if you need more information.



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NHSCR on the Web

Please visit at: <http://cancer.dartmouth.edu/nhcr/index.shtml>
We are in the process of updating the NHSCR website. Suggestions are welcome!

The state website for New Hampshire cancer data is:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/HSDM/cancer-data.htm>