

# NHSCR Registry Report



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1  
JULY 2007

## NHSCR Has a New Team Member!

Claire Davis, BA, CTR joined our staff in March 2007. She comes to us with eight years of experience as a CTR. Prior to joining us, Claire worked at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, NH for 18 1/2 years. Before becoming a CTR, Claire held different positions in the billing and medical records departments. Because of her experience working locally, Claire has an established rapport with registrars throughout NH. Claire's role at the NHSCR is primarily processing and editing data reported by registry hospitals. Please join us in welcoming Claire! If you need to contact her, she can be reached at 603-653-1037 or email [Claire.E.Davis@Dartmouth.edu](mailto:Claire.E.Davis@Dartmouth.edu). She looks forward to helping with your abstracting and reporting questions!

## NAACCR Hospital Registrar Webinars

We have received such positive feedback on the NAACCR hospital registrar webinars that we purchased another subscription for the 2007-2008 series! This series begins October 2007 and goes through September 2008. Topics to be presented include:

Melanoma	Thyroid & Larynx
Gyn	Treatment (Surgery, Radiation, Systemic)
Registry Operations	Data Quality and Data Use
Upper GI Tract	Other GI

These four-hour webinar sessions address cancer data collection for specific sites and include information on anatomy, multiple primary and histology coding rules, collaborative staging, and treatment data items as required by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) Commission on Cancer (CoC). Exercises are completed and answers presented. There is also a question and answer session.

There is one more webinar remaining this session to be held on **Thursday, September 13** from 9a.m. to 1p.m. at Wentworth-Douglas Hospital in Dover, NH. It will cover Breast Cancer Incidence and Treatment Data. Please contact NHSCR at 1-800-443-5666 to register. All are welcome to attend!

A special thanks to these hospitals who have kindly volunteered to host the webinars! Without their help presenting these webinars would not be feasible. Please consider hosting at least one webinar in the upcoming 2007-2008 session.

## ***WE NEED RAPIDS AND DEFINITIVES EACH AND EVERY MONTH!***

**Rapids** begin that all important abstract story. **Definitives** finish the abstract. So please, send, send, send!! Data transmissions should be made at least once a month. The simplest way to transmit is via the website. There's no zipping and it's secure. If you need help, please contact Bruce Riddle at 603-653-1036. He's always happy to help with sending your cases in!

### Casefinding Update

We currently pursue case-finding audits through 100% pathology review at all NH path labs and through survey of selected ICD-9-CM codes of the Medical Record Disease Indices at all hospitals. The ICD-9-CM codes are primarily lung, brain/CNS, and hematopoietic sites which may have been diagnosed without a surgical or cytological specimen.

Our audit of pathology reports for 2006 is now complete at 22 facilities. Survey of 2004 disease indices was done for all NH hospitals in conjunction with the 2007 NPCR Audit earlier this year. Since the purpose of these exercises is to discover any missed cases, it is gratifying to note how few reportable cancers were actually missed. We will be happy to provide a summary to each hospital of its status.

We will continue to perform annual pathology audits, which process should become more efficient as electronic matching capabilities improve. We will also be conducting abbreviated biannual surveys of the disease indices for the sites noted above.

We request that registrars return any outstanding lists of missing cases from either of these audits to Christina Robinson as soon as possible.

### 2006 Completeness Reports

NHSCR is currently working on the Completeness Reports for the second quarter of 2007. The second quarter includes cases reported through June 2007. The reports will be mailed the 2nd week of August. All reporting facilities are expected to be **100%** complete for diagnosis year 2006. If you have any questions about your completeness report or the reporting requirements, please contact Maria Celaya at 603-653-1031.

### Revisions to FORDS and NHSCR Data Collection Manual

Please remember that effective January 1, 2007, registrars should be using FORDS: Revised for 2007. Note that an update to this manual has been posted online at <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/fordsmanual.html>

This website also allows you to download the updated FORDS manual in its entirety, by sections, or just print the updated pages to add to your printed manual.

We have completed noting FORDS with NHSCR-specific notations and additional pages. These will be made available in electronic format, but we are happy to provide paper copies also. Keep an eye out for an email regarding these updates!

### Nonregistry Hospitals Corner

This spring NHSCR launched the WebPlus website for rapid reporting by nonregistry hospitals. The new website was developed by the CDC's National Program of Cancer registries.

- 1) As part of that launch, we offered nonregistry hospitals a new computer that would be used primarily by the hospital reporter to submit timely rapid reports AND by NHSCR staff to abstract cases when visiting the hospital. To date, some hospitals have confirmed that they want to receive a computer at their facility, others are considering it or do not want a computer. We have not heard from one hospital. Please review the offer letter sent in March and let us know if you are interested!
- 2) Most nonregistry hospitals have received instruction on using WebPlus or are scheduled for a training visit. All hospitals have been given or will be given a copy of the procedure to report via Web Plus within the next 30 days. The goal is to have all non-registry hospitals reporting via WebPlus by the end of August. Please contact Pat Braden at 603-653-1078 for more information.

### DHHS News

#### NH Annual Cancer Report

The NH Annual Cancer Report is now complete. As soon as our office receives copies, we will forward them to all reporting hospitals and other stakeholders.

#### NH Rules and Regs

A Rulemaking Notice Form and a copy of the new rules have been submitted to the NH rulemaking unit. There will be a public hearing for this rule on August 10th, 2007 in Room 211 @ Brown Building in Concord, NH at 1:00 PM. If you did not receive an email of this notice, please contact Maria Celaya at 603-653-1031.

### NH Registrar Directory

During August, NHSCR will be sending all reporting facilities a hospital information questionnaire. This questionnaire will ask for contact information for various departments at your hospital. From the information you provide, we will develop a directory of registry staff for each of the reporting hospitals and plan to distribute it at the NHSCR Fall meeting. If you do NOT want your contact information listed, please note that on the form.

**TO THE HOSPITALS THAT  
RETRANSMITTED BLADDER CASES....**

**THANK YOU!!!**

## Closing of Diagnosis Year 2005

It's that time of year again! NAACCR Call-for-Data is once again upon us, and with that more data requests from NHSCR. We believe almost all 2005 reports are in from both registry and non-registry hospitals. We are now linking the NHSCR database with other datasets to identify cases from other sources. Please be on the lookout for follow-back requests. Some may include the following:

### Death Certificate Follow-back

NHSCR has linked the DHHS 2005 death file with the NHSCR database. The first set of requests for follow-back will be sent to physicians the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August. Hospital follow-back will begin the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September. Please review the patient's medical record and determine if the case is reportable. If a case is deemed non-reportable, please provide a thorough explanation. Remember, all cases seen with evidence of cancer or for cancer-directed treatment are reportable--class of case and residence at diagnosis are not determining factors for reportability. NHSCR is again pleased to distribute information from the state mortality files to registry hospitals that perform follow-back!

### Rapid/Definitive Matching

In August, NHSCR will link all definitive cases reported by hospitals against the rapids. A list of outstanding rapids will be sent to reporting hospitals. While we try to maintain a list of non-reportables, we may have missed some. Please compare this list against your list of non-reportables. If a case was already transmitted, please retransmit the case. Sometimes there is an error in the transmission process and what we believe was sent or received never made it to us.

### Unknown Race and Ethnicity

During our monthly case processing, we generate a list of cases with no race and ethnicity coded. We try to obtain that information from other sources (e.g. another primary reported by a different facility, death certificate, etc.). A list of the remaining cases with unknown race and ethnicity will be sent to facilities to review. Please make every effort to identify the race and ethnicity of the patients on the list.

The NAACCR Call for Data is due Dec 1, 2007. For NHSCR to clean the data prior to submission, all 2005 cases must be received by October 1<sup>st</sup> so that NHSCR staff has ample time to "clean" the datafile prior to submission. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!!!

## Tri-State Cancer Registry Conference

With a nice location, (Portsmouth Courtyard by Marriott), CTR's from New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont, seriously enjoyed a variety of presentations. Topics included Ovarian Cancer, Melanoma, and Colon Cancer with top speakers. We had the pleasure of listening to Louanne Currence, RHIT, CTR, a National speaker from A.Fritz & Associates, with four of the presentations. Her knowledge of the subjects intertwined with her humor, kept the conference lively while teaching us about anatomy, abstracting, and coding. Linda Titus-Ernstoff, PhD, Laurie Small, MD, and Terry Dawson, CTR, added into the mix for a quite an excellent conference. We also had updates from the three states; Alison Johnson, CTR (Vermont), Paige Teller, MD (Maine), and Judy Rees, BM, BCh, PhD (New Hampshire). It was great to hear what other states and our affiliates are doing!!

## NPCR & NHSCR Reabstraction Audits

By now, you have probably experienced first-hand the audits undertaken this past spring.

First, nine hospitals were audited by the NPCR auditors. While the final NPCR results are not yet available, informal feedback from the auditors is excellent. We will be presenting a summary of the results during our fall meeting.

In addition, all hospitals underwent a reabstraction audit that included a special study to collect occupation and industry (I/O) data. This reabstraction audit was used to evaluate the accuracy in which data is collected with special attention to the availability and accuracy of reported I/O data. A poster of this study will be displayed and discussed at the fall meeting.

A very special note of appreciation was sent to all hospitals for their generous cooperation. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude....**Thank you for taking the time and trouble to assist us in meeting our deliverables to DHHS and NPCR!**

## **NCRA Annual Conference Las Vegas, Nevada—April 2007**

Amid the lights and decadence of gambling I had to ramble through, I reached the conference center at the Hilton. The proceedings for this conference were needless to say handled very well.

The Central Cancer Registry Workshop I attended was a wealth of information. Great speakers on topics that included: design, management and use of central registry data. They touched base on types and characteristics of central registries, the standards, death clearance, record consolidation, computers, etc... A two day workshop, worth my time and effort.

The main conference was equally worthwhile. A plethora of topics to aid even the most advanced registrar. The conference was geared to assist the registrar in attaining a great survey performance and attaining a systematic method of collecting cancer incidence that includes type of cancer, extent of disease at the time of diagnosis, treatment given and survival within the registry data. An extremely good overview of how a hospital registry works and runs.

Finally, if any CTR has not been to an annual conference, they need to go to at least once in their lifetime. It is a wonderful experience to be with 1500 CTRs!! The possibilities of networking are limitless.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Davis, BA, CTR  
NHSCR Cancer Registrar

***NHSCR note: We welcome all registrars to submit articles for this newsletter. The NHSCR Registry Report is published bi-annually. The next issue will be published in January 2008.***

## **NHSCR Data on the Web**

There are several places where data on New Hampshire cancer incidence and mortality appears on the web.

National Program of Cancer Statistics, United States Cancer Statistics

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/index.aspx>

### **1999–2003 Incidence and Mortality**

The official federal statistics for the 50 states and the District of Columbia on cancer incidence from registries that have high-quality data and cancer mortality statistics are produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), in collaboration with the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR).

The CDC Wonder is the central location for almost all CDC statistical information including cancer statistics.

<http://wonder.cdc.gov/cancer.HTML>

This is an interactive web site that allows you to do some working with the data.

NAACCR has posted the data we submit online.

<http://www.cancer-rates.info/naaccr/>

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Health Statistics and Data Management, posts annual cancer reports online.

The 1999-2003 report can be found at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/HSDM/LIBRARY/D ata-Statistical+Report/cancer-mortality98-99.htm>.

## **Text, text, text...**

How many times have we all heard that? Text documentation is a **required** part of the NHSCR abstract. Documentation helps to resolve conflicting information reported from multiple sources. The more text you give us, the more we can specifically and accurately blend the information from two or more sources to make that abstract a truly completed case.

## Sources for Online Registrar Training

### •American Health Information

Management Association  
233 N. Michigan Ave Suite 2150  
Chicago, IL 60601-5800  
[continuing.education@ahima.org](mailto:continuing.education@ahima.org)

### •Burlington County College

Health Info. Technology Cancer Registry Program  
601 Pemberton Browns Mills Road  
Pemberton, NJ 08068  
(609)894-9311 ext 1711  
[www.bcc.edu](http://www.bcc.edu) (go to: programs; Health Information Technology)  
HIT 216 Principles and Practices Cancer Registry  
HIT 217 Cancer Registry Coding and Staging (Fall 2007 if 10 students register)

### •Ogeechee Technical College

Susan Roberson contact person  
One Joe Kennedy Blvd  
Statesboro, GA 304 58  
1-800-646-1316  
[www.ogeecheetech.edu](http://www.ogeecheetech.edu)  
Course completion (59 credit hours)-awarded technical certificate in cancer registry. Will offer in Spring '08 an online associate level degree in Cancer Registry

### •Orange County Community College

Institute for Business Industry and Government (IBIG)  
Petra Wege-Beers contact person  
115 South Street  
Middletown, NY 10940  
(845)341-4380

### •San Jacinto College North

James Steen contact person  
5800 Uvalde Rd  
Houston TX 77049  
(281) 459-7608  
Offers an occupational certificate in cancer registry

### •Santa Barbara City College

Cancer Information Management (CIM)  
April Fritz contact person  
721 Cliff Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109-2394

**These online courses work with local hospitals for the clinical applications.**

***Comprehensive lists of resources and training for cancer registrars are also available on the NAACCR & NPCR training websites:***

•[http://www.naacccr.org/index.asp?Col\\_SectionKey=10&Col\\_ContentID=295](http://www.naacccr.org/index.asp?Col_SectionKey=10&Col_ContentID=295)

•<http://www.ncra-usa.org/education/formal.htm>

## Important Dates

- **NCRA CTR Exam Prep Workshop**  
August 25-27, 2007  
Alexandria, VA  
[www.ncra-usa.org](http://www.ncra-usa.org)
- **CRANE Upcoming Meeting**  
August 24, 2007  
Mercy Hospital, Portland ME
- **2007 CTR Exam Testing Window**  
September 15-19, 2007  
<http://www.ctrexam.org/>
- **NHSCR Fall Meeting**  
September 28, 2007...MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
*Place to be determined*
- **CRANE Upcoming Meeting**  
October 12, 2007  
Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Dover, NH
- **Principles and Practice of Cancer Registration, Surveillance, and Control**  
October 15-19, 2007  
Atlanta, GA  
<http://www.sph.emory.edu/GCCS/training/>
- **CRANE Annual Meeting**  
November 12-13, 2007  
Westin Hotel—Providence, RI
- **Principles of Oncology for Ca. Registry Professionals**  
December 10-14, 2007  
Reno, NV  
*April Fritz and Associates, LLC*

## NHSCR 2007 Calendar

August 1-2	NPCR Train-the-Trainer in Atlanta, GA
August 12-16	CDC Cancer Conference in Atlanta, GA
August 30	Abstract Delay Reports to DHHS
September 2	Labor Day Holiday
September 18-20	IARC Annual Meeting in Slovenia
September 28	NHSCR Fall Education Meeting
October 10-12	RMCDs Meeting in San Diego, CA
October 30	Abstract Delay Reports to DHHS
November 4	Daylight Saving Time Ends (Sunday)
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 1	NAACCR Call-for-Data—2005 DX year
December 24-25	Christmas Holiday
December 26-28,31	Winter Break Days

## Registrar News

- Congratulations to our new CTRs—Pat Braden, NHSCR Cancer Registrar and Suzanne Ogden of Wentworth-Douglas Hospital!
- As they approach new ventures, best wishes to Judy Spahr, Concord Hospital and Ginger Ainsworth, Lakes Region Gen. Hospital.
- A big welcome to new registrars Cheryl Bernier at Concord Hosp., Susan Samon at Southern NH Med. Center, & Barbara O'shea at Lakes Region Gen. Hosp.



**603-653-1032**  
**800-443-5666**

**Courier Address:**  
Colburn Hill Ste 205  
444 Mt. Support Rd.  
Lebanon, NH 03756

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 186  
Hanover, NH 03755

NHSCR  
P.O. Box 186  
Hanover, NH 03755

### **NHSCR Staff**

Judy Rees, BM, BCh, PhD  
Director  
603-653-3683  
Email: [judith.rees@dartmouth.edu](mailto:judith.rees@dartmouth.edu)

Maria Celaya, MPH, RHIT, CTR  
Assistant Director, Field Operations  
603-653-1031  
Email: [maria.o.celaya@dartmouth.edu](mailto:maria.o.celaya@dartmouth.edu)

Bruce L. Riddle, PhD  
Office Manager, Computer Operations  
& Data Analysis  
603-653-1036  
Email: [bruce.riddle@dartmouth.edu](mailto:bruce.riddle@dartmouth.edu)

### **State Cancer Epidemiologist**

Sai S. Cherala, MD, MPH  
Email: [Sai.S.Cherala@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:Sai.S.Cherala@dhhs.state.nh.us)

Patrice M. Braden, RHIA, CTR  
Cancer Registrar  
603-653-1078  
Email: [patrice.m.braden@dartmouth.edu](mailto:patrice.m.braden@dartmouth.edu)

Claire E. Davis, BA, CTR  
Cancer Registrar  
603-653-1037  
Email: [claire..e.davis@dartmouth.edu](mailto:claire..e.davis@dartmouth.edu)

Christina E. Robinson  
Field Auditor  
603-653-1034  
Email: [christina.e.robinson@dartmouth.edu](mailto:christina.e.robinson@dartmouth.edu)

### **NHSCR on the Web**

Please visit at: <http://cancer.dartmouth.edu/nhcr/index.shtml>

*We continuously aim to improve 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>

*New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, Bureau of Disease Control and Health Statistics, Health Statistics and Data Management Section, and the New Hampshire State Cancer Registry, 2007.*

*Development of this program was supported by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PA02060 under cooperative agreement number U55/CCU-121912.*