



# New Hampshire State Cancer Registry

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Date: January 3, 2018  
To: NH Registry Hospitals  
From: NH State Cancer Registry  
Re: SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

## **A Note on NAACCR 18 and Diagnosis Year 2018 Cases**

As you know, effective January 1, 2018 all reportable cancers are to be coded using new standards from the ACS Committee on Cancer, SEER, NPCR and NAACCR. Many of these standards are still being finalized. NHSCR will try to keep everyone informed. Collectively, these new standards are called NAACCR 18.

We understand that it is difficult to collect data when all of the fields haven't yet been defined by the national standard setters, and the software hasn't been upgraded to v18! The purpose of this memorandum is to set out our expectations in these strange circumstances, and what we would like to happen over the next year.

First, this is what we know from the major standard bodies:

**Data collection software:** Due to the volume of new and changed data items being implemented for cases diagnosed January 1, 2018 and later, abstracts for these diagnoses may be started in NAACCR Version 16 (v16) but must be **completed** using NAACCR Version 18 (v18)-based software. The major changes affect grade, stage, site-specific data items, and radiation treatment. A database conversion will be required.

Reporting facilities must install their v18 reporting software updates before completing cases diagnosed January 1, 2018 and later. If you start to abstract cases diagnosed in 2018 using current v16 software, we recommend that **the following not be completed**, as new 2018 data items will be required once the standards are set (requirements will vary by standard setter):

### **Known upcoming changes:**

- **Grade:** The current grade data item will be replaced by three separate data items for grade assessed during the clinical and pathologic timeframes or for cases that had neoadjuvant therapy administered.
- **AJCC T, N, M, Stage Groups and Descriptors:** The current T, N, M data items are being replaced by similar items for the AJCC 8th Edition, with more space for the categories and a new way to code descriptors.
- **CS Site-Specific Factors 1-25:** All CS Site-Specific Factors (SSFs) will be replaced by individual data items, specific to the information being collected. Not all SSFs are collected moving forward; some completely new data items are being added. Some of the SSFs were revised to align with CAP protocols and AJCC 8th Edition.
- **Radiation Treatment:** New data items have been added to update the way phases of radiation treatment and treatment target volumes are described.

**As the timeframe for software being ready is not known, and we currently don't know the magnitude and scope of changes which will be included in the final 2018 specifications, we recommend that as much text documentation as possible be captured, to facilitate completion of the new and changed data items once the registry software has been updated to v18.**

In addition to the new data items previously mentioned, other changes for 2018 include the following:

- Site-specific Data Items (SSDI's)
- Revised Solid Tumor Rules (formerly known as the Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules)
- Revised Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Database
- New histology codes
- 2018 Summary Stage
- 2018 Extent of Disease
- CoC STORE Manual

Second, this is what we know needs to happen in New Hampshire:

- a) NHSCR will continue to receive all Diagnosis Year 2017 cases, both rapids and definitive, in NAACCR 16 as currently being transmitted. Nothing needs to change.
- b) NHSCR will receive Diagnosis Year 2018 rapid cases in NAACCR 16 format. However, each rapid case must have a complete date of diagnosis and a complete date of birth. We are receiving a large number of rapid reports without a date of diagnosis or date of birth and these are not useful to us.
- c) We cannot receive any Diagnosis Year 2018 definitive cases until your registry software is upgraded to NAACCR 18. We realize that this may not happen until May or June. By necessity, timeliness for Diagnosis Year cases will be very flexible. For much of this year, our assessment of your timeliness and completeness will be based on receipt of your rapid case reports instead of your definitive.
- d) After conversion to NAACCR 18, NHSCR will receive Diagnosis Year 2018 and earlier as NAACCR 18 records.
- e) All Diagnosis Year 2018 cases should be texted as much as possible to simplify coding of the new data items after the registry software is converted.
- f) NHSCR will transmit the new list of required data items to you as soon as possible after it is confirmed with NH DHHS.

Just like you, we are anxiously waiting new documentation. We will do our best to keep you informed. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any concerns or issues. This will be a very big hill to climb. We advise you to keep your hospital cancer committee informed of this big transition.

Thank you,

NH State Cancer Registry