Effective Enhancements: Use of Tools for Monitoring Completeness of Cancer Reporting in Maryland

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BACKGROUND

Completeness of registry data in hospitals is an important component of data quality for registry operations. Monitoring of data is critical to assess if cases are missing, possibly due to factors associated with unforeseen and/or uncontrollable circumstances at the hospital or problems with transmission of data. Tracking data for completeness is a key to a successful registry.

GOAL/OBJECTIVES

Maryland sought to improve data acquisition/incident case completeness for hospitals. The major objectives include:

- Developing guidelines and procedures that outline thresholds for reporting, monitoring, and documenting activities
- Defining ‘deficient’ and ‘delinquent’ reporting
- Tracking case reporting and communication activities in a systematic manner
- Providing feedback to facilities on quality improvement indicators

METHODS

To improve completeness, the Maryland Cancer Registry:

1. Collected data using a monitoring spreadsheet as the basis for data collection
2. Developed a database tool (called ComTrack) to incorporate data and document interactions with deficient and delinquent facilities
3. Created an encompassing feedback report for reporting facilities with quality indicators

RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS

MCR is experiencing positive improvements including:

- Increased reporting from the baseline year by hospitals
- Enhanced/more frequent communications with reporters
- Better understanding and knowledge of factors affecting reporters
- Consistent tracking and documentation of issues/communications
- Automated standardized feedback format to send to facilities

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