The Impact of Requiring Certified Tumor Registrars in New Jersey

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Overview

- Events Which Led to this Requirement
- Development of Educational Programs
- Overall Impact of Requiring CTRs in NJ
- “Our Attempt” to Analyze Impact on Data Quality
A Little History

- Investigation of Childhood Cancers in Dover Township
- Unveiled a Registry backlog of 5 years
  - Implementation of a Plan to Bring the Registry Up to Date
  - Changes in Cancer Reporting Statute
  - Increase in State Funding
Long Laundry List

• We Wanted “Teeth” in the Law
• We Wanted to Improve:
  – Timeliness
  – Completeness
  – Data Quality
• CTR Vs CTR Eligible
• Protection for Central Registry Staff
The Process & The Struggle

• Developed Strong Collaborative Partnerships
  – Strong Involvement Leadership of ORANJ
  – NJ Hospital Association
  – American Cancer Society
  – Cancer Institute of NJ
Sweeping Legislative Changes In 1998

• By August 3, 2000
  - “All abstracting work performed by a health care facility which diagnoses or treats 100 cancer cases per year shall be performed by a registrar who is certified.”
And More Legislative Changes....

- Penalties for Non-Reporting
  - If a HCF fails to correct its deficiencies, the Department will conduct the appropriate Registrar activities and the HCF shall reimburse the Department.
  - HCF can pay up to $500 per unreported case.
  - HCF that fails to report cases shall be liable for a penalty up to $1,000 per day.
Development of Basic Education Program

- Joint Effort with ORANJ & ACS
- Goals:
  - Provide Basic Training Opportunities for New & Inexperienced Registrars
  - Get as many People as Possible Certified In NJ
Basic Education Program

• Started in 1997

• 2 Year Program
  – Monthly Full Day Workshops
  – Original concept started with Physicians & Volunteer CTRs from ORANJ
  – Minimal Registration Fees
  – Utilize ACS Facility for Classes in Central NJ
  – NJSCR provides AV, handouts etc.
CTRs in NJ Who Participated in Basic Ed

Dates of Training

# of Participants


97-99
99-2001
2000-2002
2001-2003
2002-2004
CTRs Passing Exam In NJ

# of CTRS

Year CTR's Passed Exam

- 1996
- 1997
- 1998
- 1999
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
NJSCR Pre-Certification Program

- 3-Day workshop held 1-2 times per year for CTR Eligible
Impact on Central Registry Staff

- Provided Impetus for Staff Certification
- Implementation of “CTR title” to Protect Staff
- Provided Opportunities for Central Registry to Recruit Certified Tumor Registrars
- Enhanced Credibility with Hospitals
- Enhanced our Relationship with ORANJ
Impact on the Profession

• Raised the “Bar” in NJ
• Hospital Administrators have begun to Recognize the Value of CTRs
• Strengthened ORANJ
• Salaries
Impact on Data Quality

- Difficult to Measure
  - GENEDITs
  - NAACCR Audit 1995 Vs. SEER Audit 2001
  - Poor Record Keeping
  - Reabstracting
- Too Many “Gray Areas”
Projects Underway to Improve Data Quality

- SWEEP
- GENEDITS Lite
- Basic & Intermediate Education Programs
Where We Are Today

- All NJ Hospitals That Are Required to Have CTR’s are in Compliance
- There Are 154 Active CTRs in NJ
- 53 ACoS Approved Programs >75% of Annual Caseload
- Sponsor Advanced Training Workshops
Action Items

• Targeted Training will Continue to be a Priority in NJ
• Advocate for the Hospital-based CTR
• Stay Active with ORANJ
• Take More of a Pro-active role with NCRA