

4th NAACCR Informational Webinar on 2018 Implementation: Q&A  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

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Q: When is the estimated release of final versions of the various SEER manuals that are now in Draft form?

A: The Extent of Disease (EOD) General Coding Instructions manual has been released (available at <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/staging/2018-EOD-General-Instructions.pdf>).

The Summary Stage 2018 coding instructions, rules and definitions are available on SEER\*RSA. A PDF version of the instructions, rules and definitions will be released to standard setters by March 30 and become publicly available on April 13, 2018.

SEER EOD API, Java, and C# libraries that vendors need in order to incorporate the EOD in cancer registry systems have been released.

Given the volume of information, which can translate to thousands of pages, NCI SRP will monitor and evaluate the need for a PDF version of all EOD schemas.

Draft NAACCR Site Specific Data Items and Grade manuals are available on the NAACCR website. No new content will be added to the manuals; however, some corrections based on input from registrars who have reviewed and used the manual are likely to be implemented. A final version of the manual is scheduled for release by April 30.

Most solid tumors rules chapters are available as PDF documents on the SEER website. The PDF documents can be used to make decisions for over 90% of new cases. The remaining chapters will be completed by April 30.

The SEER Program coding manual has reflected the treatment rules included in the Commission on Cancer manuals. To maintain the harmonization of CoC and NCI SEER data collection requirements with respect to treatment and other coding rules, NCI SEER will release an updated version of its SEER Program coding manual soon after the new version of the COC manual becomes available.

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Q: Since the NCRA post conference SEER workshop has been booked solid since 1/3, would it be possible to add additional spaces to accommodate for the people who are on the wait list? This is the only training available for these agenda items.

A: SEER has been in communication with NCRA about the overwhelming interest in the workshop and the possibility of relocating to another room to accommodate more participants, but it unclear whether this can be done due to logistical constraints. NCRA will record the 2018 workshop sessions and make the recording available to registrars free-of-charge, as they have done in the past. NAACCR and SEER are working collaboratively on several educational Webinars that will cover some of the same material and be available free of charge. The schedule for these Webinars will be announced shortly.

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Q: Where is the draft Solid Tumors Manual available?

A: The draft rules are available on [seer.cancer.gov](http://seer.cancer.gov) registrar tab. Site rules will be posted as they are formatted, so not all of the site groups are available at this time.

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Q: Among those with no definitive surgery or pathologic staging: Is post-therapy staging for all cases, or only those treated with curative intent?

A: If the patient does not meet the pathologic staging rules, they are not eligible for post therapy staging. Usually, the pathologic staging rules require a resection of the primary tumor. So, if a patient does not have a resection of the primary tumor after neoadjuvant treatment, there is a good chance they will not be eligible for a post-therapy stage. The NAACCR standards accommodate collection of yP stage in the AJCC TNM Post Therapy data items and do not accommodate collection of yC stage.

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Q: Is there a file of today's presentation available?

A: It will be available after the webinar at <https://www.naacr.org/2018-implementation/>

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Q: Why wasn't implementation delayed until January 1, 2019? With respect to data usability, having "real time" data available to clinicians should also be considered. Implementation of a new system should happen at a logical starting point.

A: Thank you for providing both a tremendously relevant question and the best answer: the implementation has not been delayed because real time data is important. Medical providers will use AJCC TNM 8<sup>th</sup> edition rules, and expect that registrars will do the same. Alternatively, the meaning of the stage descriptors and stage group used by physicians would not match the data collected by registrars.

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Q: Any update on 2018 STORE manual? Release date?

A: Look for further information from COC.

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Q: Will Registry Plus for COC accredited facility to use for RQRS cases be ready in March?

A: Look for further information from COC.

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Q: Hi Jim-this question is a general one- don't know if this will be covered later, but if it's not- when will Summary stage 2018 be available and will we ever be able to download EOD and Summary stage or will we have to use the RSA site staging calculator?

A: The Summary Stage Manual in PDF form should be available in about 3 weeks. There are no immediate plans to release a PDF manual for EOD because it would be very large (over 1000 pages).

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Q: The acronym SSDI very confusing. For years this has meant the Social Security Death Index; now it also means Site Specific Disease Indicators. Does the new one really have to be "SSDI"?

A: We recognize that the SSDI acronym for Site-Specific Data Items is confusing to some because it is the same as the acronym for the Social Security Death Index. However, we think the term Site-Specific Data Items is the clearest way to express the new content, so have elected to use the term. The context should make clear which meaning is intended.

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Q: When will the final document be posted?

A: The final version of the SSDI Manual is targeted for publication in April.

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Q: Did you say the full EOD manual is available on the NCI SEER website. I can only find the final version of the EOD general instructions, not the entire EOD 2018 manual.

A: As mentioned previously, the full EOD manual will not be available as a PDF due to its length.

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Q: From what I am hearing, there will not be a delay in the 2018 for registry database. We do not have 2018 Summary Stage, or the 2018 MPH rules revised, or RQRS information and the double coding needed, or the new layout. We have AJCC 8.

A: Some of the material mentioned in this question is available in draft or final form. The NAACCR Data Standards and Data Dictionary, which contains the new record layout, is posted on the NAACCR Website: <https://www.naacccr.org/data-standards-data-dictionary/>, 2018 Summary Stage is now available online in SEER\*RSA, and a draft of the Solid tumor rules has been posted: <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/solidtumor/> (site rules will be posted as they are formatted, so not all of the site groups are available at this time). As discussed though out this Webinar, many individuals and organizations are working to finalize 2018 implementation materials needed by software developers, vendors and registrars as soon as possible, and the pieces are falling into place rapidly.

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Q: Is there any effort by any standard setters to communicate these new expectations for data collection to MDs?

A: As noted during the Webinar, AJCC has a Webinar series specifically for physicians to inform them about staging changes. The College of American Pathology (CAP) has updated their cancer protocols so that pathologists will record information needed to align with AJCC 8 requirements. The SSDI TF has worked with both organizations to ensure that SSDI codes and coding instructions are consistent with AJCC 8 requirements and CAP protocols. Other organizations, such as NCCN and ASCO play a role in updating clinicians about changing clinical guidelines which are reflected in the data registries collect.

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Q: Is EOD only for SEER states/regions?

A: EOD is required for SEER states/regions, including dual NPCR-SEER funded states/regions at this time. Some non-SEER registries plan to collect EOD voluntarily.

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Q: Are the codes Peggy is showing us listed in the new STORE manual put out by the CoC? Also, are the 3 EOD fields required for all states/facilities even those who are not SEER States?

A: The questioner is not specific about which codes they are referring to. See the <https://www.naaccr.org/data-standards-data-dictionary/> for information about NAACCR data items and sources of standards. See response to previous question about EOD.

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Q: Would love ideas on how to organize info in order to quickly and efficiently abstract a case!

A: It isn't clear if the questioner is asking for ideas for organizing software displays and screens or ideas about best practices for abstractors. Without more details we are unable to address this question.

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Q: Will there be a summary of changes to the MPH rules by site where there were changes made?

A: Yes, we will include a summary of changes document for the Solid Tumor Rules.

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Q: Will the standard setters be able to make a joint statement regarding the coding of cases with an unknown year of diagnosis? How are we to determine which staging system is to be used in this circumstance?

A: From NPCR's point of view, cases with an unknown date of diagnosis are not submitted to the national program or included in pooled national statistics. Thus, NPCR does not have a recommendation. Hospital registrars should check with their state registry and/or with CoC for recommendations. (Update: this question was discussed at the Implementation Guidelines meeting on

March 26 and the recommendation was made that the question be referred to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG)).

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Q: Will an electronic version of the third printing of the AJCC 8th edition be available? If yes, when and what format?

A: We are planning to have an electronic version available, but we must work out distribution details. I do not have a delivery date yet.

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Q: If you've already spent a great deal of money on purchasing the AJCC 8th Ed. Cancer Staging Manual, are there means to get reduced cost or donated copies of the 3rd printing so all current content is included?

A: There are no plans to provide reduced cost or donated copies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> printing. However, corrected pages are available for download on the AJCC Website. The revised breast chapter is also available for download at the site.

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Q: I heard from a registrar who ordered their AJCC 8th Edition manuals a week ago and they received the 1st print! I hope someone from AJCC is checking with Springer to make sure they are replacing their stock with the most current printing of the manual.

A: It's not clear why this happened. The Springer Website indicates that the 3rd edition is in printing and available for pre-order.

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Q: Are we to use the Excel file instead of our 3rd ed ICDO3 books?

A: The 2018 ICD-O-3 Guidelines state to use the update tables along with ICD-O-3 and the hematopoietic database. The excel file and tables list only the new codes, new terms for existing codes, and codes which have a behavior change. The expectation is that software vendors will incorporate the new codes and terms into their products, either from the Excel file of new terms and codes or from the enhanced Excel file presented by Jennifer Seiffert during the webinar. The Excel files are intended for vendor use more than for registrar use.

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Q: Do you anticipate a 4th printing of the AJCC 8<sup>th</sup> edition within the year?

A: The publisher determines the print runs - 1st, 2nd 3rd, and so on. The 3rd printing includes all errata issued through December 2017. If there is going to be a 4th printing, we want to include any corrections posted after 1/1/18.

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Q: Will anyone who bought the old staging book be replaced with a new one?

A: AJCC does not plan to provide replacement copies at this time.

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Q: Will there be a reimbursement considering they're expensive?

A: No.

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Q: Although cancer registries are not yet collecting data on 2018 cases, physicians are diagnosing and treating patients. Because the AJCC 8th Edition continues to be changed, physicians have probably staged according to versions that are no longer current.

A: For registrars in CoC accredited programs, this could be an issue for discussion by the Cancer Committee.

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Q: I was unable to download supplements from the links. My work does not accept google.drive links. Would be able to provide different links for them? The only link I could get in is the Breast updates.

A: At the moment, Google Drive is our only resource for sharing documents like Excel workbooks on our site.

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Q: What is DLL (probably not diffuse lymphoblastic lymphoma)?

A: DLL is a Dynamic Link Library, a way to package data and functions that can be that can then be embedded in other software systems. CDC will distribute the DLL to developers of other software programs so they can use it to create pick lists for staging data items.

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Q: Can Laura comment on the new major changes that Donna talked about today with how we are supposed to code the staging. I posted a similar question awhile ago. There is confusion on not being allowed to use the physicians staging and the uncertainty timing.

A: I think Donna is the best person to answer any questions about the webinars. I recommend posting a question on the CAnswer Forum at <http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/forum/ajcc-tnm-staging-8th-edition/ajcc-eighth-edition-webinars/major-rule-changes>

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Q: It would be nice if Excel spreadsheet of histology codes had histology name in 1 column and notes in 2nd separate column instead of combined in the 1 column. It would make searching easier.

A.: For software systems to use a list as you describe, they would need to re-program their system to use a different format of the histology list. No additional programming should be required to use the enhanced list as it is now.

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Q: Can the standard setters work together with other organizations to ensure that training does not overlap.

A: Yes! We apologize for booking this webinar the same day as the AJCC webinar. We should have checked with them before scheduling. The new Education calendar will be posted soon and should help prevent future issues.

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Q: Comment only: All webinars and trainings should not have a fee associated with the training and/or webinar.

A: NAACCR is organizing a series of webinars on topics new for 2018 that do not have a fee associated with them. Free educational materials and opportunities are also available through SEER and NPCR. Fee-based webinars are provided by NCRA and NAACCR. These may cover some of the same material as the free Webinars, but may be organized differently, cover topics in more depth, and/or involve more interactive learning opportunities. Where fees are charged, they are necessary to cover the organizational expenses of planning and presenting the Webinars.

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Q: Is there a timeframe on when vendors will have the V18 upgrade available?

A: Software vendors will have everything they need to start working on the upgrade in the very near future and are working hard to get a product out to their customers as quickly as possible. You would have to contact your software vendor to get an estimate on when their software will be released.

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Q: Is there a draft of the STORE manual, or a document for changes?

A: That is a question for CoC. They have told us they are drafting a communication that will go out to their facilities in the near future.

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Q: Will there be a 2018 version of SEER Appendix C?

A: Yes. The 2018 version of SEER Appendix C will be posted on the SEER website with the 2018 version of the SEER Program Manual.

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Q: Laura, why was the AJCC 8th edition printed and released? The AJCC released this manual with the errors. We are having to tear our manuals apart and replace over 1/3 of them with errata. Why can we not receive replacement manuals?

A: We have a number of free resources on [www.cancerstaging.org](http://www.cancerstaging.org) that are always accurate and can be used to supplement the print manual.

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Q: Is there CE hours available for this presentation

A: This webinar is not eligible for CE's.

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