

Tips to Improve Reporting from Non-Hospital Sources

Physician practices and other outpatient facilities rarely employ Certified Tumor Registrars; reporting to the central cancer registry often falls to office staff with little to no oncology training. It is important for central registries to provide them with tools to ensure data are as complete and accurate as possible.



Software Development

- Build abbreviated, targeted abstracts in Web Plus and Abstract Plus for dermatologists, urologists, radiation oncologists, and hematology oncologists.
- Modify field names and descriptions to be more intuitive for reporters.
- Develop training manuals and videos for nonhospital reporters.



Education and Outreach

- Contact state and local medical societies for opportunities to educate their members about cancer reporting requirements.
- Work with the state comprehensive cancer control program to build relationships with providers.
- Use pathology reports to identify physician offices that are not currently reporting.
- Partner with other programs within the health department that may have relationships and or access to providers.
- Provide data quality reports back to physician reporters.
- Survey physician practices to identify barriers to reporting.
- Maintain a contact list of nonhospital facilities and their reporting status.



Other

- Process nonhospital reports after reporting from hospitals is complete or near complete.
- Consider regulatory changes to require electronic reporting from nonhospital facilities.
- Request remote access to facility medical records to facilitate follow-back.



This tip sheet was developed based on contributions from central registries throughout North America. It is not meant to lay out a specific methodology, but rather as a starting point for more in-depth discussions, development of tools, and the establishment of new processes or practices within individual registries as appropriate.

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