

The Sentinel

The Newsletter for the Association of North Carolina Cancer Registrars

Nov/Dec 2004

Message from the President: Elizabeth Tucker, CTR

Hello Everyone,

Has a year ever past so quickly? I feel as if I missed several months and now it is Christmas!

There are several items we each need to be aware of:

- ANCCR membership is now \$25.00 plus a late fee of \$25.00.
- CE summary forms are due February 28. Remember these can be completed on the Internet. The web address is <http://www.ncra-usa.org/certification/maintenance.html>. Be sure you print a copy for your records, in case of an audit.
- The calendar year January 1 – December 31st is the membership year for NCRA. The membership fee for a CTR is \$85.00. This includes the charge for the CE program. If you are not a member, there is a fee assessed for administrative cost when submitting the hours. CTRs must keep up their CE hours. If the CE hours are not maintained and reported, NCRA has procedures to revoke the CTR certification. There is far too much work involved in passing the CTR exam to ever let it expire. If your hospital is not paying for your NCRA membership, and you feel that the support of ANCCR might assist in getting that approved, please let me know. I will be glad write a letter to your supervisor. Also, you might find this booklet from NCRA on Continuing Education Handbook helpful, <http://www.ncra-usa.org/pdfs/certification/cehandbook2004.pdf>.

Congratulations to the following individuals who passed their CTR exam in 2004. **Carla Laws from UNC, Curtina Alsbrooks from Carolinas Medical, Linda Lucas from Forsyth Medical Center, Cheryl Blalock from Raleigh Community Hospital, Christina Ray from WFUBMC and Mike Farkas from Mission Hospitals-Asheville.** Hard work and long hours paid great dividends for these individuals. Congratulations to all of you.

For future reference, remember only those who are members of ANCCR qualify for the \$50.00 reimbursement and the year's free membership to ANCCR.

If you have any important news or information that you would like to share in the Sentinel, or if you would like to have your hospital highlighted please contact Adaline Brown. Her email address is adaline.brown@mosescone.com.

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Where will your Registry be four years from now?

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At ERS, we are exclusively focused on the Cancer Registry and with our team of highly qualified CTR's and Software Engineers, we deliver High Performance Applications, fully compliant with the FORDS, NAACCR, AJCC, STATE REPORTING & HIPAA standards, Accurate and Tested Data Conversions, On-site Training, and a full complement of Support Services to keep both your Cancer Registry system and your Skills up to date.

So if you are concerned about where your registry will be four years from now, give us a call and let ERS ensure your long-term success.



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President's Letter continued from page 1:

As the year comes to a close, let us not forget those young men and women who are serving our country here and abroad. The season is one of joy, but our hearts remain tender for those who will not be with their loved ones this season.

I wish for each of you joy, love, and peace for the coming year.

Happy Holidays
Elizabeth



2004– 2005 ANCCR Board

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HOSPITAL PROFILE

High Point Regional Hospital
601 N. Elm Street
High Point, NC 27262

In the beginning there were ordinary people who set about to do an extraordinary thing: Administer healthcare to their own; there were just a handful of doctors with vision, nurses with compassion, citizens with virtue. As each generation passed, the torch was passed to others who raised the bar higher. Nothing would stand in their way; not wars; nor depression. A century later, the same must be said for High Point today. Our future rests on the uncompromising strength of our past.

High Point Regional is proud to celebrate A Century of Care. High Point Regional Hospital began in 1904 and this year we celebrated a Century of Care. Over the years there have been moves from a big private residence (which served as the first hospital) to new Centers of Excellence. In 2001, construction began on the new cancer center. Remember how it rained during the winter that year? We had a huge swimming pool! The construction was delayed considerably but we were finally able to move into the center June 2003. The Cancer Registry moved into the new Cancer Registry Suite located in the Cancer Center. This was wonderful, since we had been moved several times during the construction, including the back hall of the Cashier's office!

The center has been designed with cancer patients and their families in mind—not only providing the latest in technologies, but also ensuring an environment that promotes healing and wholeness. The center's 18 inpatient beds are oversized rooms that include kitchens (microwave, refrigerator and table for dining.) The room is furnished so the patients' families can spend the night. Patients undergoing treatment can also move about the facility and visit the garden, the labyrinth, or their balcony to enjoy fresh air. The family room has seating areas, toys for kids, a full size kitchen and large dining area. Also, to aid with information gathering, a library is available to assist visitors with Internet access and other resources so they can get information to research any disease. Radiation Oncology is located on the first floor. Emerywood Oncology and the Resource center is located on the second floor with the registry.

Deborah Carrethers, who works full time at Forsyth, also works 32 hours a week for High Point. We have arranged for Deborah to have an Internet connection so she can do some work at home. She has been part time since 1998.

I have been the Cancer Program Coordinator since May 1995. In 1996, HPRHS was ACoS accredited as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program. We abstract around 1000 cases a year.

In the fall of 2004, High Point Regional was recognized as the only hospital in North Carolina who provides all aspects of cancer care under one roof.

Letter from the Editor

As the year comes to a close we are reminded of some of the many challenges that have taken place in the cancer registry for 2004. We not only started collecting more benign brain tumor cases but also started collaborative staging as well as implementing new ACOS CoC Standards. For those of you who went through the survey this year and passed, I want to congratulate you on your success. We need to keep reminding ourselves everyday that what we are doing is making a difference in other people's lives as well as sometimes our own. We can already see improvements in cancer care with all the new drugs and therapies available.

Please let me know if there are any articles or any items of interest that you would like to see published. All members are welcome to submit articles for the newsletter. The deadline for submission of articles for the Jan/Feb 2005 newsletter is Jan. 28th. Feel free to call me at (336) 832-0832 or e-mail at adaline.brown@mosescoc.com.

My wish for each of you is to have a safe and joyous holiday season! Forget about all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season – Just sit back and relax and have fun with your family and loved ones.



NCRA National Conference

Don't forget to mark the NCRA National Conference on your calendar for April 10-13th. This year's theme is Explore the Gateway to Information, Education and all that Jazz in New Orleans. There will be pre and post conferences as well. The conference is going to be held at the Sheraton New Orleans. There will be tours available if you plan to arrive early or stay late that you can take advantage of. For more information on the conference go to the NCRA website. www.ncra-usa.org.

New Resources Available on the Web at CoC:

New changes and revisions to the standards for approved programs:

<http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/standards.html> and
<http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/programstandards.html>.

Abridged version of the CAP Protocols Document:

<http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/approval.html>

Seer Registry Resource Available

The new SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2004 (Fourth Edition) can be downloaded or ordered from SEER free of charge at: <http://seer.cancer.gov>.

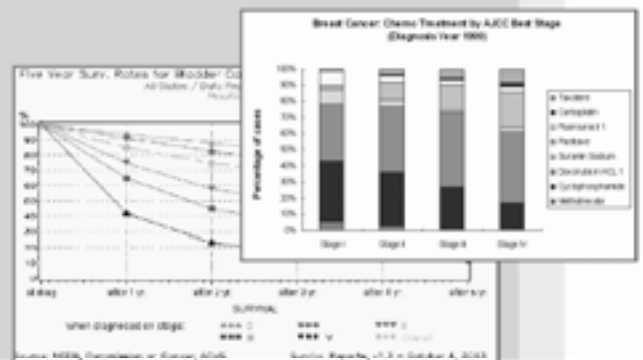


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