The Sentinel 

# The Newsletter for the Association of North Carolina Cancer Registrars

Summer 2020

**Message from the President:**

**Paige Tedder, RHIT, CTR**

Happy Summer ANCCR Members,

I hope everyone is having a great summer and has been able to get out and do something fun. I know a lot of vacation plans have changed or been postponed due to the pandemic. Hopefully though, you have still been able to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather.

The ANCCR Board recently met and made the difficult decision to cancel this year’s annual meeting in Flat Rock. We initially discussed a complete virtual meeting but felt it would be too difficult to arrange at this late date. We encourage all members to attend NCRA’s virtual meeting or other online webinars offering CE’s. We plan to hold next year’s meeting in Flat Rock in Sept 2021.

Just announced last week, The CoC and NCDB will begin the pilot testing program of the new Rapid Cancer Reporting Systems (RCRS) on August 3, which will replace the Rapid Quality Report System (RQRS). Atrium Health will be participating in the pilot testing and I look forward to sharing my thoughts about RCRS vs RQRS in the next newsletter.

Everyone please stay safe and enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Stay safe.

Paige

Dr. Greene’s Article



In the good ole summer time! In the good ole summer time! In the good ole summer time!

**ANCCR’s Executive Board 2020**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Name** | **Email** |
| President | Paige Tedder, RHIT, CTR | [paige.tedder@atriumhealth.org](mailto:paige.tedder@atriumhealth.org) |
| Immediate Past President | Kelly Lowrance, RHIT, CTR | [kalowrance@novanthealth.org](mailto:kalowrance@novanthealth.org) |
| Vice President | Angela Rodriguez, CTR | [angela.rodriguez@mercy.net](mailto:angela.rodriguez@mercy.net) |
| Secretary | Amy Arnold, CTR | [amyarnold@registrypartners.com](mailto:amyarnold@registrypartners.com) |
| Treasurer | Christine Smith, CTR | [jamstribe@aol.com](mailto:jamstribe@aol.com) |
|  |  |  |
| **Committee** | **Name** | **Email** |
| Bylaws | Adaline Brown, RHIT, CCS, CTR | [abrown@q-centrix.com](mailto:abrown@q-centrix.com) |
| Education | Kimberly Swing, CTR | [kimberly.swing@duke.edu](mailto:kimberly.swing@duke.edu) |
| Karen Knight, CTR | [karen.knight@duke.edu](mailto:karen.knight@duke.edu) |
| Educational Scholarship | Inez Inman, BS, RHIT, CTR | [iinman@wakehealth.edu](mailto:iinman@wakehealth.edu) |
| ANCCR Resource Manual | Ruth Maranda, LPN, CTR | [ruth.maranda@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:ruth.maranda@dhhs.nc.gov) |
| Facebook Administrator | Angela Rodriguez, CTR | [angela.rodriguez@mercy.net](mailto:angela.rodriguez@mercy.net) |
| Grants & Vendors | Melanie Rogan, CTR | [mrogan@mycrstar.com](mailto:mrogan@mycrstar.com) |
| Allison Shelor, CTR | [allison.shelor@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:allison.shelor@unchealth.unc.edu) |
| Historian | Deborah Poovey, CTR | dpoovey7@gmail.com |
| Membership | Jenean Burris, RHIT, CTR | [jburris@wakehealth.edu](mailto:jburris@wakehealth.edu) |
| Nominating | Isaiah Zipple, CTR | [isaiah.zipple@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:isaiah.zipple@unchealth.unc.edu) |
| Program Director | Kelly Lowrance, RHIT, CTR | [kalowrance@novanthealth.org](mailto:kalowrance@novanthealth.org) |
| Publications | Inez Inman, BS, RHIT, CTR | [iinman@wakehealth.edu](mailto:iinman@wakehealth.edu) |
| Web Site Coordinator | Cathy Rimmer, BA, MDiv, CTR | [ccrimmer@novanthealth.org](mailto:ccrimmer@novanthealth.org) |
| Ways & Means | Kisha Raynor, CTR | [kisha.raynor@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:kisha.raynor@carolinashealthcare.org) |
| Kim Maloney Bobbitt, BS, CTR | kmaloney-bobbitt@novanthealth.org |
|  |  |  |
| **Liaisons** | **Name** | **Email** |
| A4C Liaison | Kathleen Foote, CTR | [kathleen.foote@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:kathleen.foote@unchealth.unc.edu) |
| NCRA Liaison | Angela Rodriguez, CTR | [angela.rodriguez@mercy.net](mailto:angela.rodriguez@mercy.net) |
| NC CCR Liaison | Melissa Pearson, CTR | [melissa.pearson@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:melissa.pearson@dhhs.nc.gov) |

**Upcoming Annual Educational Conferences**

**ANCCR Educational Fall Meeting**

**CANCELED**

2020 – Oct 14-16, Flat Rock, NC

Re-scheduled from Sept 23-25, 2020

The Lodge at Flat Rock

**NCRA Educational Conference**

**VIRTUAL**

2020 – Sept 20-23, Orlando, FL

Re-scheduled from May 31-June 3, 2020  
2021 - April 14-17, Indianapolis, IN  
2022 - April 6-9, Washington, DC

**TREASURER REPORT**

**Christine Smith, CTR**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ANCCR 2020 First Quarter Treasurer Report | |  | |
| Beginning Balance 04/01/2020: | |  | |
| Checking : | | 26,431.58 | |
| Money Market: | | 21,605.60 | |
| Total: | | 48,037.18 | |
| Deposits: | |  | |
| April | | 150.00 | |
| May | | 425.00 | |
| June | | 225.00 | |
| Membership dues income April-June | | 800.00 | |
|  | |  | |
| Expenses: | | 0.00 | |
| Bank Statement Charges | | 0.00 | |
| Total Deposits | | 800.00 | |
| Total Expenses (SC Profit) | | 8,837.25 | |
|  | |  | |
| Ending Balance 06/30/2020: | |  | |
| Checking: | | 18,394.33 | |
| Money Market: | | 21,607.21 | |
|  |  | |  |

Total: 40,001.54

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Jenean Burris, RHIT, CTR**

There are 156 ANCCR members as of 7/21/2020.

**WEB SITE REPORT**

**Cathy Rimmer, BA, CTR**

NAACCR Webinars are added to the member’s only section when files become available.

**A4C Liaison**

**Kathleen Foote, CTR**

**A4C General Session met virtually on Friday, May 15, 2020**

Draft lung cancer screening position statement presented. Written to “determine best practices/recommendations for cancer screenings or use of the best or more appropriate cancer test versus another and to fill a need of guidelines for legislatively mandated insurance coverage”. The draft was reviewed and changes recommended. Final draft will be ready for next meeting.

Letter of Support to Senate recommending Oral Chemo House Bill 480 favorably pass. This bill provides equal coverage for both traditional IV and oral CTx. 43 states & DC have already passed similar legislation. This Act would require insurers that already provide coverage for both IV and oral CT to cover oral CT on basis no less favorable than IV ensuring fair out-of-pocket costs among already-covered drugs.



DHHS/DPH COVID 19 Update



Obesity & Breast Cancer Outcomes presentation by Dr. Jan Wong, ECU Brody School of Medicine. State of obesity in NC and health effects, especially related to cancers. Study overview on obesity and mortality presented. Potential impact of weight loss on cancer incidence including bariatric surgery, exercise and Women’s Intervention Nutrition Study (WINS Trial). Summary

* Consistent data from observational studies link obesity to increase cancer incident & mortality in obese associated cancers.
* Only a few large-scale trials have tested the impact of changes in energy balance on cancer prognosis.
* There are NO DATA that provides definitive evidence that weight loss, calorie restriction, or increased exercise will lower the risk of cancer-specific mortality.



NC Cancer Plan 2020-2050 progress report.

Patient Navigators’ Survey Report – Addressing Barriers in Cancer Survivorship. Survey of patient navigation services to understand barriers faced when providing care and support for cancer survivors.

Top Barriers Patient Navigators Top Barriers Cancer Survivor Clients

* Transportation \* Need for financial support
* Financial barriers \* Need for transportation
* Need for navigation \* Emotional/Psychosocial/Peer support

Resource tools to address the need and barriers of clients & connecting them to these resources.



CCR Report



NC Community Cancer Network

Attended Northwestern Regional meeting (virtual) on May 28. The objective is to foster collaborative partnerships, connecting patients, survivors, clinics & clinicians and community to increase access to care, services and resources to reduce the burden and address issues and gaps. Promote/provide educational opportunities and share/create resource materials. Pilot program to target 2 regions – Northwest and Southeastern, based on distance patients travel to closet hospital, cancer incidence rates, diabetes, heart disease mortality rates and NC Medicaid regions.

During the meeting, the group identified a list of barriers, needs or issues faced in the NW region then narrowed it down to top 3 barriers faced – Transportation, Language and Nutrition. They identified services & resources already provided or available in the NW region.



**EDUCATION REPORT**

**Kimberly Swing, CTR and**

**Karen Knight, CTR**

**Educational Opportunities:**

**NCRA Center for Cancer Registry Education -** <http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/>

Access to high-quality educational programming to support both seasoned professionals and those new to the field, included are programs related to AJCC 8th Edition. Most are fee based.

**NCRA Registry Resources** - <http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/rr>

A series of informational abstracts and presentations that show registrars how to use these important resources, these site-specific abstracts provide an outline to follow when determining what text to include. FREE

**SEER Educate -** <https://educate.fredhutch.org/LandingPage.aspx>

Improve technical skills through applied testing on the latest coding guidelines and concepts. Complete practice abstracts and earn up to 20 CE credits per cycle. FREE, Casefinding and Grade exercises are now available as well.

**NCRA’s Mini-Learning Shorts-** Great guide for new registrars- <http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/best-practices?fbclid=IwAR1bfhzNf844uTRZKbhelHvK0G2MSBumIlQH0o4K1hYqe46BmmmxPrnIVfY> and <http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/introduction-to-the-cancer-registry>

<https://education.naaccr.org/freewebinars> - NAACCR Talks are free webinars on topics of concern to the NAACCR membership. View recordings of the live webinars for no charge.

**Tumor Talk-** sign up to receive webinar invitations presented by Himagine Solutions at <https://himaginesolutions.com/himagine-tumor-talk-webinar/> view previously recorded webinars at <https://himaginesolutions.com/previous-webinars/>

**Registry Partner’s Coding Break**- Educational presentations on YouTube created by Registry Partners <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFePdWVva8gfosv7jL11tyQ>

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| --- | --- |
| **Register today for CAnswer Forum LIVE Webinar:** [**https://www.facs.org/caforumlive**](https://www.facs.org/caforumlive) |  |

The [American College of Surgeons (ACS) Cancer Programs](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__sm1.multiview.com_t_gcH1AAgbaBPWBIYfQDQI8YLrYcaO2kDRU2taaaaO2kBPCBAN7aa-3Fn-3D7-5FvBwDy-7Eamp-3Bj-3Deglkh.qhoann-7E25AujoqY.kX0-7Eamp-3Bf-3D3-7Eamp-3Br-3D&d=DwMCaQ&c=imBPVzF25OnBgGmVOlcsiEgHoG1i6YHLR0Sj_gZ4adc&r=eqoP-4M5iiuqWROTzaGrWu39oRlxKuhCxYwVlrcWxlE&m=KOB06M1Kz2-4c9L45c9wsvsMn9QOAhuix95fT6FSkpY&s=jXE759pHbrMYHr6I2kJpGgMhPR7KJdI8JOMI9ahVJBE&e=) is applying for continuing education credits from the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) for all upcoming 2020 CAnswer Forum LIVE webinars. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

* CAnswer Forum LIVE—August 5, 2020
* CAnswer Forum LIVE—October 14, 2020
* CAnswer Forum LIVE—December 9, 2020

**AJCC:**

View recordings of the live webinars for no charge.

7th Edition Webinars - <https://cancerstaging.org/CSE/Registrar/Pages/Seventh-Edition-Webinars.aspx>

8th Edition Webinars- <https://cancerstaging.org/CSE/Registrar/Pages/8thEditionWebinars.aspx>

Disease Site Webinars - <https://cancerstaging.org/CSE/Registrar/Pages/Disease-Site-Webinars.aspx>

AJCC Curriculum - <https://cancerstaging.org/CSE/Registrar/Pages/AJCC-Curriculum.aspx>

Registrar’s Guide to Chapter - <https://cancerstaging.org/CSE/Registrar/Pages/Presentations.aspx>

AJCC TNM Category Options - <https://cancerstaging.org/CSE/Registrar/Pages/Presentations.aspx>

[http://www.ncregistrars.com/](http://www.ncregistrars.com/)

ANCCR purchased subscriptions to the NAACCR Cancer Registry & Surveillance Webinar Series.

Each webinar is three hours (3 CE's) and will be presented on the first Thursday of each month. After the LIVE version, a link to the webinar will be available to ANCCR members on the ANCCR website, as soon as it is available each month.  The sessions are 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Host sites:

* Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, NC

Contact: Jenean Burris: [jburris@wakehealth.edu](mailto:jburris@wakehealth.edu)

* Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, NC

Contact: Paige Tedder  [paige.tedder@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:paige.tedder@carolinashealthcare.org)

* UNC Rex Hospital, Raleigh, NC

Contact:   Kathleen Foote   [Kathleen.foote@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Kathleen.foote@unchealth.unc.edu)

* Vidant Medical Center, Greenville, NC

Contact:  Merrill Bright    [Merrill.bright@vidanthealth.com](mailto:Merrill.bright@vidanthealth.com)

**NAACCR webinar schedule:**

8/6/20- Corpus Uteri

9/3/20- Coding Pitfalls

10/01/20- Prostate

11/05/20- Lung

12/03/20 - Thyroid

1/7/21- Treatment

2/4/21- Lymphoma

3/4/21- Abstract and Coding Boot Camp

4/1/21- Larynx

5/6/21- Pancreas

6/17/21- Kidney

7/8/21- Quality in COC Accreditation

8/5/21- Breast

9/2/21 Coding Pitfalls

***Coding, Staging and Abstracting Resources:***

\*Online version of IDC-O-3 <http://www.iacr.com.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=100&Itemid=577> the new version, ICD-O-3.2, is recommended for use from 2020.

\*SEER 2018 updated case finding list- <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/casefinding/>

\*IDD-O-3 coding table for new terms- updated 8/22/18- <https://www.naaccr.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Updated-8-22-18-ICD-O-3-alpha-table.pdf>

\*SEER RX- <https://seer.cancer.gov/seertools/seerrx/>

\*SEER\*RSA- <https://staging.seer.cancer.gov/>

\* EOD 2018 General Coding Instructions- <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/staging/2018-EOD-General-Instructions.pdf>

\*Ask a SEER Registrar- <https://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html>

\*CAncer Forum- <http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/help>

\*Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Database- <https://seer.cancer.gov/seertools/hemelymph/>

\*Solid Tumor Rules- <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/solidtumor/>

\*NAACCR- Site specific data items (SSDI/GRADE)- <https://apps.naaccr.org/ssdi/list/>

\*STORE- [https://www.facs.org/~/media/files/quality%20programs/cancer/ncdb/store\_manual\_2018.ashx](https://www.facs.org/~/media/files/quality programs/cancer/ncdb/store_manual_2018.ashx)

\*AJCC- Errata for 8th edition AJCC <https://cancerstaging.org/references-tools/deskreferences/Pages/default.aspx>

\*Informational Abstracts- <http://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/rr>

\*NCI Cancer Types- <https://www.cancer.gov/types>

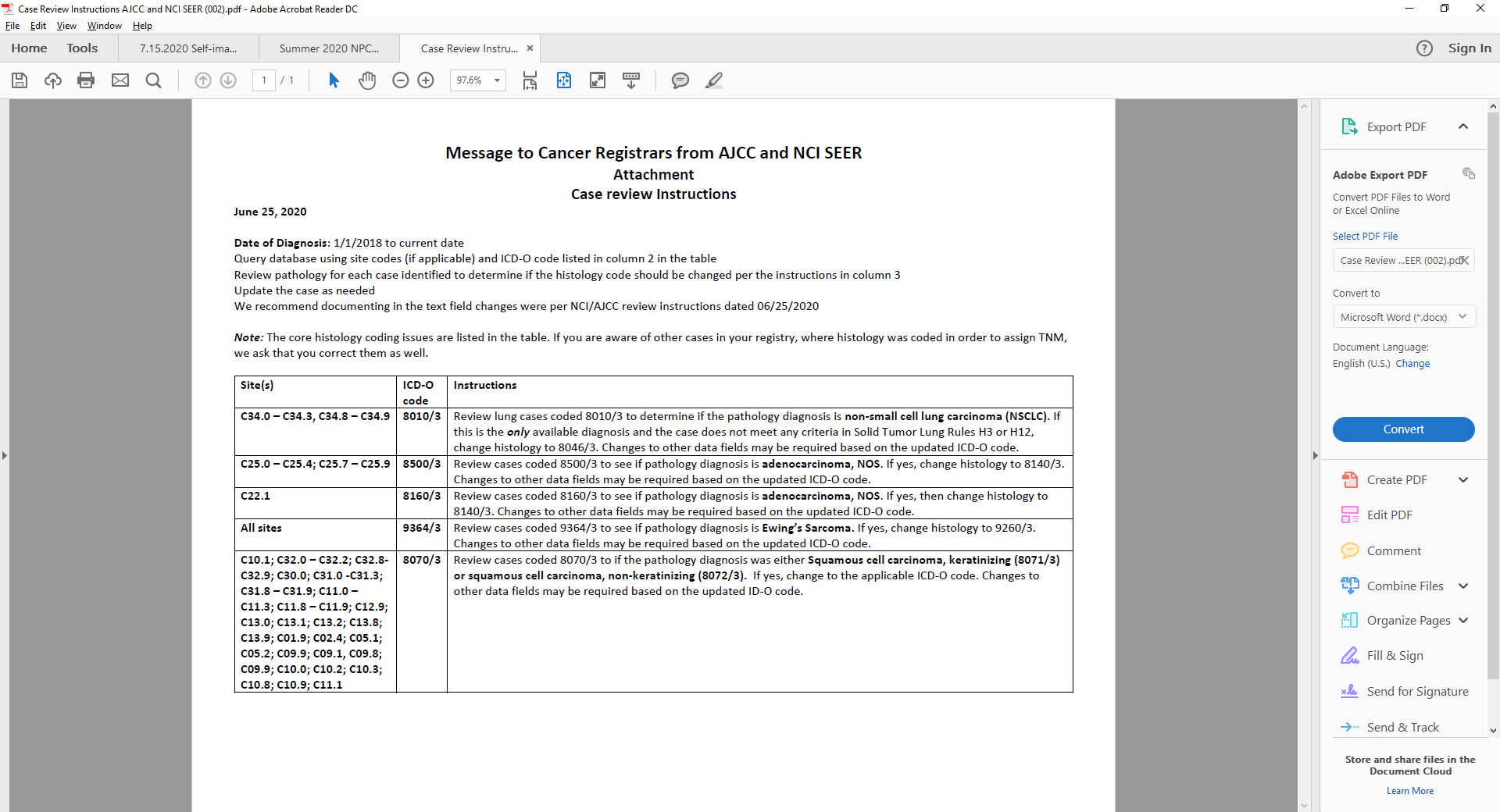
\* RQRS User Guide- [https://www.facs.org/~/media/files/quality%20programs/cancer/ncdb/rqrs\_userguide.ashx](https://www.facs.org/~/media/files/quality programs/cancer/ncdb/rqrs_userguide.ashx)

\*CTR Guide to Coding XRT- [https://www.facs.org/~/media/files/quality%20programs/cancer/ncdb/case\_studies\_coding\_radiation\_treatment.ashx](https://www.facs.org/~/media/files/quality programs/cancer/ncdb/case_studies_coding_radiation_treatment.ashx)

\*NCDB- The Corner Store- <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/news>

\*American College of Surgeons- Subscribe to the newsletter *The Brief* at <http://multibriefs.com/optin.php?ACSORG> or view articles at <http://multibriefs.com/briefs/ACSORG/index.php>

Coding Tips:





COVID-19 and Cancer: NCI's Sharpless Says COVID-19 Could Halt Streak of US Cancer Mortality Gains

<https://www.ajmc.com/journals/evidence-based-oncology/2020/july-2020/covid19-and-cancer-ncis-sharpless-says-covid-19-could-halt-streak-of-us-cancer-mortality-gains>

Patients with Multiple Myeloma Who Join MMRF's CureCloud May Improve Their Treatment Options While Contributing to Research

<https://www.curetoday.com/articles/patients-with-multiple-myeloma-who-join-mmrfs-curecloud-may-improve-their-treatment-options-while-contributing-to-research>

Resources available for cancer caregivers in Colorado

<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/lifestyle/health/resources-available-for-cancer-caregivers-in-colorado>

**REPORT FROM THE NC CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY**

**Melissa Pearson, CTR**

**Staffing Updates:**

* Cheryl Biagiarelli, CTR joined the CCR in July as a Quality Management Specialist.
* ClarLynda Williams-DeVane, PhD was appointed as the new Director of the State Center for Health Statistics.



It is not surprising that the cancer surveillance community has become very focused on COVID-19 and the effects on cancer patients. Specifically, treatment decisions and outcomes. Here are a few broad points that cancer care teams are evaluating and we, as cancer registrars, should also be mindful of when reviewing cancer cases:

* Visits and labs being done at remote centers and telemedicine if possible (Think casefinding. This may affect visit types and how you would normally identify the patient. This may also affect your overall case counts.)
* Postponement of surgery or adjuvant treatment for both stable and high-risk patients.
* Prioritization and rationalization of surgeries based on urgency, symptoms, and possibly cure.
* New treatment start date decisions made by considering tumor burden and the clinical condition of the patient.
* For patients with low tumor burden, stable disease, or undergoing post-operative chemo or maintenance, consideration for delaying treatment or switching to oral options where available.
* Prioritization of systemic treatment to those who will have most benefit (i.e. curative). Thereby, affecting decisions related to palliative care and treatment.
* Consideration of target therapy as adjuvant therapy to avoid side effects of chemo, repeated hospital visits, and immunosuppression.

These are only a few examples but hopefully give you an idea of what to be looking for. While software vendors and our national standard setters are working hard to figure out the best way to capture this information, we have to do the best we can with what we have. And right now, that is…

TEXT!

The new COVID-related ICD-10 codes do not fall into the eligible range that would allow them to be coded in the Comorbidity/Secondary Diagnosis data items. The NAACCR Uniform Data Standards (UDS) Committee is currently discussing options on what information should be collected but no final decisions have been made. In short, we don’t know what we need to know at this point and careful consideration needs to be given before revising data items and edits as any changes would be cumbersome to implement.

In the meantime, consider developing user-defined data fields to capture COVID-related information. This is a great option for any internal analysis your cancer program may want to do. Keep in mind… user-defined fields are NOT TRANSMITTED TO THE CCR. This is for your internal use only but can be very helpful if the CCR needs to follow-back to the facility for any reason. Options for data fields include:

* COVID-related ICD-10 codes
* Specify a COVID-related death
* Specify if treatment was delayed, modified, or not given at all due to COVID
* I’m sure there may be others you will find beneficial as you start to encounter these cases.

**Make sure any text related to COVID-19 specifically includes the word “COVID-19”!**

Instead, the CCR is relying on **TEXT!** The standard use of the word “COVID-19” in the text will allow us to identify and isolate these cases for further evaluation. Below is the CCR’s guidance on how to standardize this documentation in the text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lab Text | Date and results of COVID-19 and antibody testing (both positive and negative) |
| Treatment Text | If treatment is delayed, modified or not given due to COVID-19, add that detail to the corresponding treatment text field |
| Remarks Text | Record COVID-19 related ICD-10 codes specified in the medical record |

FAQ’s:

1. What if the patient tests positive for COVID after the case has been submitted to the CCR?

Answer: For now, just add the information to the text using the above guidelines. Modifying text only will not prompt a corrections record so that update will not be sent to the CCR. We are still trying to figure out some of these finer details. Stay tuned for more instructions!

1. If treatment is delayed, when do I submit the case to the CCR?

Answer: Please wait until ALL first course of treatment data items can be coded before submitting the case to the CCR. Keep in mind, the treatment does not need to be completed. Only the start date and type of treatment needs to be known to complete the required data items in the abstract.

If you have other ideas, please share! You are seeing these cases much sooner than we are and your feedback is very helpful to us!

**Ruth Maranda, LPN, CTR**

**NC CCR Education and Training Coordinator**

Registry Partners CTR Coding Break, June 2020: Bladder Grade

<https://www.registrypartners.com/ctr-coding-break-bladder-site/>

This 6-minute presentation reviews the clinical and pathological timeframe, grade notes, priority order, and reviews common questions for coding grade for bladder. This is 6 minutes well spent! Review of 2018 cases has identified bladder grade as a problem area for coding errors. This video address those common errors. Open your Grade manual to Bladder (Table 19) and follow along and take notes!

NCRA Call for Nominations

**Melanie Williams Rogan, CTR**

**NCRA Nominating Committee Chair**

Are you a leader? Have you ever had the desire to become a voice in the leadership of our association and become an influence and advocate to help drive the organization’s strategic direction? Have you ever wanted to expand professionally and share your knowledge with others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please consider submitting a nomination for one of the NCRA elected positions below. Become a voice of the cancer registry profession and help drive the continued success of the NCRA. Volunteering with NCRA is a very rewarding experience that allows you to grow professionally, network with your peers and help guide the future of our organization!

**Board of Directors Open Positions**

* President Elect/Secretary
* Treasurer Junior
* Education Board Director
* Recruitment and Retention Board Director
* Advocacy and Technical Practice Board Director-one from each region (East, Midwest and West)

**Other Open Positions**

* Council on Certification Administrator
* Council on Certification Representative

**Volunteer Leadership Presentations**

For those interested in volunteering for a leadership position, there are presentations for the various Board of Directors positions posted on the NCRA website. These presentations will give interested members an insight into the duties of each position. <https://www.ncra-usa.org/Membership/Volunteer/Volunteer-Leadership-Presentations>

Terms begin June 2021 and the deadline for nominations is Friday October 23rd. All offices are 2 year terms with the following exceptions:

* President-Elect/Secretary is a one-year term with a roll-up to President (also a one-year term) and then Immediate Past President (another one-year term).
* Treasurer Junior is a one-year term with a roll-up to Treasurer Senior for one term
* Council Administrator is a three-year term

Please visit <https://www.ncra-usa.org/Membership/Nominations-and-Elections> to explore the open positions with eligibility requirements, qualifications, descriptions of each position, as well as application forms.

Please consider nominating yourself or another NCRA member. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the cancer registry profession and in shaping the future of the organization, while growing professionally, having a lot of fun and meeting new friends and colleagues!

**Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!**

**In the good ole summer time!**