

# ARKANSAS CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY

April 2026 Monthly Newsletter



Dorner, B. (n.d.). *National Cancer Control Month graphic* [Digital image]. Retrieved April 2026, from <https://www.beckydorner.com/national-cancer-control-month>

April serves as a powerful reminder of the many dimensions of cancer awareness, prevention, and research. Throughout the month, special focus is placed on esophageal, testicular, and minority cancers, highlighting the importance of education, early detection, access to care, and outreach. April also emphasizes cancer prevention and control, reinforcing the value of screening programs, lifestyle interventions, vaccination efforts, and data-driven public health strategies.

From April 16–22, communities recognize Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer Awareness Week. Increased visibility during this week encourages individuals to seek screenings and helps healthcare providers promote early diagnosis.

On April 25, 2026, [Pancreatic Cancer Action Network](#) will host PanCAN PurpleStride, a nationwide walk dedicated to raising funds and awareness for pancreatic cancer. This event unites survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and advocates in support of research advancements and improved patient outcomes.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate the critical need for strong cancer registries and comprehensive data collection systems. Cancer registries play an essential role in tracking incidence, identifying disparities, guiding research, shaping policy, and measuring the effectiveness of prevention and control efforts. While April highlights specific cancer types, the work of surveillance, research, and community engagement continues year-round.

Maintaining focused attention on individual cancer sites each month underscores the importance of sustained commitment in the fight against cancer. Every awareness campaign, screening initiative, research breakthrough, and registry entry contributes to a larger, ongoing effort to reduce the burden of cancer and improve lives in every community.

## DID YOU KNOW

### FLccSC Continuing Education and Learning Opportunities

Within the Fundamental Learning Collaborative for the Cancer Surveillance Community (FLccSC), the Arkansas Central Cancer Registry (ACCR) has 26 active presentations available. There are a wide range of educational opportunities. Some presentations focus on primary site(s), while others offer a review of the different instructional manuals for grade, Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Summary stage, solid tumor rules, site specific data items (SSDI) and more.

Educational offerings presented by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) have also been uploaded. The most recently uploaded presentation is the February 2026 Boot Camp Part 1. This is a great opportunity to view multiple exercises, with case scenarios and quizzes. Please take advantage of this wealth of information.



# RULES FOR ARKANSAS CANCER CASE REPORTING

In accordance with Arkansas cancer reporting laws, Ark. Code Ann. §§ 20-15-201 - 205, all licensed health care facilities and providers are required to report cancer cases to the ACCR no later than six months after the date of diagnosis of cancer and/or initial treatment of cancer.

All cancer cases that were diagnosed or began initial treatment on or before **October 31, 2025**, are due this month. Cases must be reported via Web Plus.

Month	Abstract due to ACCR	Recommended Month Facility conducts Patient Follow-up	Follow-Up and Case Update sent to ACCR
September 2025	March 2026	September 2026	October 1
<b>October 2025</b>	<b>April 2026</b>	<b>October 2026</b>	<b>November 1</b>
November 2025	May 2026	November 2026	December 1

## ACCR EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES



Topic: Ambiguous Terminology  
 Presenter: Janet Raleigh, ODS-C\*

Date/Time: April 14, 2026 @ 12 pm CST.  
 Registration via: [FLccSC\\*](#)



The April webinar presentation will focus on examples of how ambiguous terminology is used across various instructional manuals. As always, each ACCR webinar provides an opportunity to earn 1 Category “A” CE\* credit by viewing the webinar and completing the quiz in FLccSC\*. Please reach out to Janet Raleigh, Education & Training Coordinator (ETC), with any questions.

## ETC CORNER

Hello everyone, I cannot believe we are already in April! Looking forward to many more opportunities to get outside in the warmer temperatures and getting excited about the new spring growth and renewal of trees and plants with the bright and vibrant colors of the season soon to be displayed.

The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) Annual Educational Conference is only a month away. Such a wonderful opportunity to be a part of educational growth as well. This is also a great time to renew connections with colleagues that will help support your professional development and showcase your brightness and vibrancy as well in your dedication to accuracy, quality, timeliness and overall strength of your work in cancer registry activities. Whatever option best suits your needs, sign up today to participate in this wonderful event! This program has been approved for 20.5 CEUs, with specific sessions designated as Category A credits.

Sincerely,  
 Janet Raleigh, ODS-C  
 Education & Training Coordinator



\*See ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS page.

## MONTHLY ABTRACTOR TIPS

### Spotlight: Lymph node coding

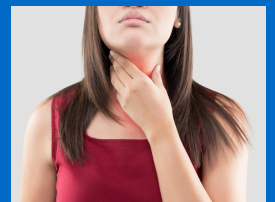
Isolated Tumor Cells (ITCs) have special instructions within the Standards for Oncology Registry Entry (STORE) Manual and SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual (SPCSM). Review the pathology reports to identify the number of sentinel and/or regional lymph nodes positive. When isolated tumor cells or ITCs are noted to be positive, they may or may not be counted.

Sentinel Lymph Nodes Positive – Breast	Sentinel Lymph Nodes Positive – Melanoma	Regional Lymph Nodes Positive – Melanoma*	Regional Lymph Nodes Positive – Other sites
If only ITCs are identified, then code as <b>NEGATIVE</b>	If only ITCs are identified, then code as <b>POSITIVE</b>	Count nodes with ITCs as positive	Do not count nodes with ITCs
*Note: Merkel cell carcinoma of the skin follows the same instructions for Regional Lymph Nodes Positive – Melanoma.			

Neoadjuvant therapy is also mentioned when coding Regional Nodes Positive in the SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual. While the STORE manual does not specifically mention neoadjuvant therapy regarding coding this data item, code 95 is applied for lymph node positivity from an aspirate procedure, followed by negative nodes at the time of surgery.

Data field	Manual	Code	Instruction
Regional Nodes Positive	SPCSM	95	Positive lymph node aspirated and surgically resected nodes are negative, following neoadjuvant therapy
Regional Lymph Nodes Positive	STORE	95	A positive lymph node is aspirated, and surgically resected lymph nodes are negative

The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Cancer Staging System and the SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual may define certain lymph nodes differently at times. Apply the AJCC definition when coding Regional Lymph Nodes Examined and Positive data items.



\*See ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS page.

## Focus Area: Diagnosis year 2026, NEW REQUIRED data items

The STORE manual 2026 includes instructions for two new data items required to be collected for diagnosis year 2026. Sex Assigned at Birth and Method of Detection for Breast Primary.

**Sex Assigned at Birth** has only 3 choices, 1 = Male, 2 = Female, or 9 = Not stated/Unknown. Examples are provided for assigning option 9. Primary site codes C600-C639 are always assigned code 1. Primary site codes C510-C589 are always assigned code 2.

**Method of Detection (MOD) – Breast** is in reference to the first imaging test, symptom, or clinical sign that initiated the subsequent workup and diagnosis of cancer. A code is assigned based on the MOD documented in the imaging report. Codes 01-13 and 99 are available options. Special coding options are provided when distinctions between codes 01 and 02 or 10 and 11, cannot be done. Codes 01-09 relate to imaging, 10-12 are patient and/or provider related, code 13 is neither imaging or patient/provider and code 99 for Unknown, NOS\*. It is important to review these instructions carefully to code the most appropriate choice. Of note, this is a Commission on Cancer (CoC) user defined field.

Three new SSDIs\* are now required to be collected. These new SSDIs include: Lung Spread Through Air Spaces (STAS), Residual Cancer Burden, and Residual Cancer Burden Class.

**Lung STAS** is applicable for Lung (V9: 2025+). Information for coding should be found on the pathology report(s). A surgical resection must be completed, with the exception of (/2) behavior tumors based on either biopsy or surgical resection. Keep in mind, this SSDI is collected for diagnosis years 2026+. For cases diagnosed 2018-2025, this SSDI must be left blank.

**Residual Cancer Burden (RCB) and RCB Class** are specific to Breast. Residual cancer burden is a measure of the volume of residual disease after completion of neoadjuvant therapy. Residual cancer burden class is evaluated based on 4 prognostic factors measuring the primary tumor bed and 2 factors measuring the lymph nodes. For both data items, to determine appropriate codes, both neoadjuvant therapy and a surgical resection must be completed. Additionally, both data items are based on the stated information on the CAP Protocol or synoptic pathology report(s).

Also added was Corpus Carcinoma and Carcinosarcoma, Female Genital Schema new primary site for the SSDI *Microsatellite Instability (MSI)*. Colon and Rectum MSI has been collected for diagnosis years 2018+. Coding instructions are provided for both MSI and Mismatch Repair (MMR) testing results.

**ArCRA 50th  
Annual Educational  
Conference**  
Little Rock, AR  
Delta Hotels by Marriott



**50th Anniversary Reception**  
Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

**Educational Conference**  
Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> & Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Details coming soon– [www.arcra.org](http://www.arcra.org)



\*See ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS page.

## Arkansas Nursing Research Day

# PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

### Advancing Health Through Nursing Research

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026 | 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

I. Dodd Wilson Education Building  
UAMS Little Rock Campus

[Click or Scan Here  
for More Information](#)



#### Featuring:

**Dr. Nancy Glass,**  
PhD, MPH/MSN, RN

*2026 Dalme-Rickel Distinguished Visiting Lecturer*

Dr. Glass conducts clinical and community-based intervention research with diverse populations across multiple settings domestically and globally. Since 2002, Dr. Glass has served as Principal Investigator of nine federally funded multidisciplinary research

projects (NICHD, NIMHD, CDC, NIMH, NINR, OWH) to improve safety, health, and economic security and address gender inequity in diverse community and clinic settings. Dr. Glass has also collaborated with global experts and donors (UNICEF, World Bank, U.S. Department of State, PRM) to implement and evaluate innovative primary prevention programs that challenge social norms that sustain violence against women in humanitarian settings (Somalia and South Sudan).



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Questions? Email [CONARNursingResearchDay@uams.edu](mailto:CONARNursingResearchDay@uams.edu)



# AHCA

ARKANSAS  
HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

**Arkansas Health Care Association (AHCA)**  
is hosting a convention and trade show on  
**May 12-13, 2026** in Hot Springs!

Conference Info: At our annual convention and trade show, industry professionals come together to explore the latest innovations, products, and services in long-term care. Network with peers, attend informative sessions, and discover new solutions to enhance the quality of care in your facility.

[Click here for more info!](#)

Registration is officially open

# Pathway to Food Security

## Localizing Solutions

**LOCATION**  
Little Rock Marriott Hotel  
3 Statehouse Plaza  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

AMERICAN COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION  
*National Conference*

JUNE 4-7, 2026 | LITTLE ROCK, AR



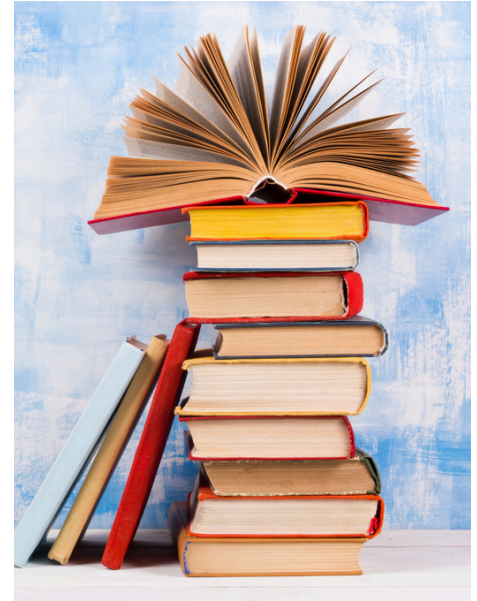
The **North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR)** 2026 conference will be virtual June 23-25, 2026!

Conference Info: The 2026 conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn from national experts in cancer surveillance, cancer registry operations, and cancer research. Sessions will explore the new era in cancer surveillance from multiple perspectives in North America.

[Click here for more info!](#)

## ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACCR – Arkansas Central Cancer Registry  
ADH – Arkansas Department of Health  
AJCC – American Joint Committee on Cancer  
CE – Continuing Education  
FLccSC – Fundamental Learning Collaborative for the Cancer Surveillance Community  
ICD – International Classification of Diseases  
ITCs – Isolated Tumor Cells  
MOD – Method of Detection  
MMR – Mismatch Repair  
MSI – Microsatellite Instability  
NAACCR – North American Association of Central Cancer Registries  
NCDB – National Cancer Data Base  
NCRA – National Cancer Registrars Association  
NOS – Not Otherwise Specified  
ODS – Oncology Data Specialist  
SEER – Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program  
SPCSM - SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual  
SSDI – Site-Specific Data Item  
STAS – Spread Through Air Spaces  
STORE – Standards for Oncology Registry Entry  
WHO – World Health Organization



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## QUESTIONS?

Check out our Frequently Asked Questions on the ADH website!

[https://healthy.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/FAQs\\_about\\_ACCR.pdf](https://healthy.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/FAQs_about_ACCR.pdf)

Need previous issues of ACCR’s newsletters or presentations? You can find them on the ADH ACCR website!

[healthy.arkansas.gov/accr](https://healthy.arkansas.gov/accr)

Need assistance getting set up with cancer case reporting or are you experiencing issues with WebPlus?

Email [ADH.ACCR@arkansas.gov](mailto:ADH.ACCR@arkansas.gov)

Need to review previous Casefinding/ACCR Required Data Items lists or ICD-10 Reportable lists? You can find them on the ACCR Utilities page for Arkansas Cancer Reporters.

<https://adhcancer.arkansas.gov/>

For all other questions or for more information on the Arkansas Central Cancer Registry, email us at

[ADH.ACCR@arkansas.gov](mailto:ADH.ACCR@arkansas.gov). We look forward to hearing from you!



**Division of Public Health Practice | Vital Records & Statistics Branch**  
**Arkansas Central Cancer Registry**

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