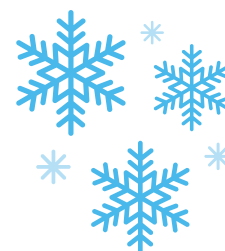


ARKANSAS CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY

December 2024 Monthly Newsletter



Happy Holidays



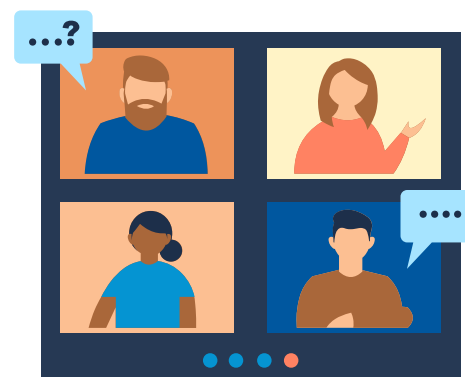
Did you know the National Breast Cancer Foundation, has a 'Wall of Support' on their website. During this season of giving, this is a great opportunity to share hope filled messages to survivors. Check out the [Wall of Support](#) and share your support by clicking on the link and posting a heartfelt message.

ACCR EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

Topic: Breast Cancer Coding
Presenter: Janet Raleigh, ODS-C

Date/Time: December 17, 2024 @ 12 pm CST
Registration via: [FLccSC](#)

Our final ACCR presentation for 2024 will focus on a review of primary site breast coding. Thank you for joining us throughout the year!!!



ACCR UPDATES

ACCR will be hosting its next virtual Office Hour in January. Please dial in with your abstracting, coding, reporting, education, and IT questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

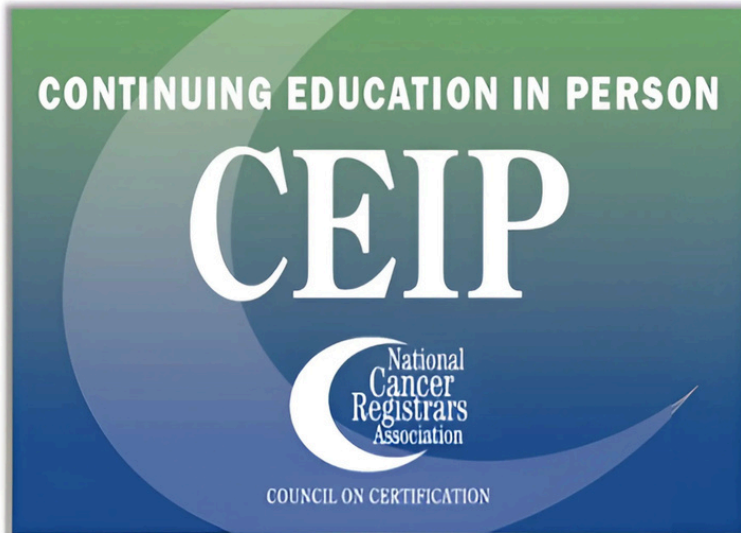
Date/Time: January 21, 2025 @ 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST
Platform: Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 237 895 357 773
Passcode: D73vYi

Don't forget to check out the updated ACCR Required Data Items list and ICD-10 Reportable list for 2025 diagnoses on the ACCR utilities page! Height and Weight are state specific data items and blanks will not pass edits beginning January 1, 2025.



NCRA CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATES



Recently, NCRA sent out an informative Continuing Education In-Person (CEIP) Requirement FAQ. Some of the highlights include:

- Requirement begins in 2025
- ODS-C must earn a minimum of 8 continuing education (CE) credits of in-person education every 4 years
- CEIP credits can be earned across 2 CE submission cycles, within a 4-year cycle
- Virtual attendance at an in-person event does not qualify
- Education can be delivered by facility or employer, regional or state association, central registry or national partners
 - ArCRA
 - TxTRA
 - NCRA
- This 4-year CEIP requirement does not impact the traditional 2-year CE submission cycle
- In person events prior to 2025 will not be accepted

Please email ce@ncra-usa.org with questions in this section.



MONTHLY ABTRACTOR TIPS

STORE 2025 Update

1. Focus on Palliative Care/Hospice Clarifications

- Any treatment recorded in 1st course therapy provided to prolong a patient's life by managing symptoms, alleviating pain, or providing comfort. This includes the care received during hospice.
- Palliative care can involve pain management that may not include surgery, radiation or systemic treatment.

2. STORE 2025 added instructions for coding NAACCR Data Items:

Palliative Care (Palliative Procedure #3270)

- If hospice was recommended and received, capture the type of care provided to palliate or relieve the patient's symptoms
- If hospice was recommended and received but it is unknown what type of care the patient received, assign code 7
 - Palliative care provided that does not fit the descriptions for codes 1-6

ABTRACTOR UPDATES



Concise, accurate, complete text is essential to supporting coded fields within a completed abstract.

Supporting Lymph Node Surgical Coding in Text

Sufficient Operative, Surgical and Path text is needed to support and validate a SLN Bx vs. a more extensive lymph node surgery.

Per STORE:

- Use the operative report as the primary source document to determine whether the operative procedure was a sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNBx), or a more extensive dissection of regional lymph nodes, or a combination of both SLNBx and regional lymph node dissection.

Per NAACCR Guidance:

- **Operative Text:** Record description of all surgical procedures from which staging information is derived. Record the number of lymph nodes removed.
- **Surgery Text:** Record surgical procedures (including LN surgeries); record lymph nodes removed. Data items that can be validated using this text include *Scope or Regional Lymph Node Surgery*.
- **Path Text:** Record the number of lymph nodes involved and examined. Data items that can be validated using this text include *Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery*, *Regional and Sentinel LN Positive and Examined*.

EXAMPLE:

Operative Text: Blank

Surgery Text: RT breast mastectomy

Path Text: RT breast Invasive Lobular Carcinoma, 2.1cm Gr 1, 0/4 SLNs, 0/1 Non-SLNs

Field to Validate: Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery

Code in Abstract: 05

Insufficient Text: Operative, Surgery ⚠

- **There is NOT enough information to verify/validate Scope of Regional Lymph Node Surgery.**
- Path text provides information that may warrant code 2 or 6, given both SLNs and non-SLNs were examined.
- Operative Text and expanded Surgical Text is needed to support a SLNBx vs. a more extensive lymph node surgery.
 - **Sufficient Text Example:**
 - **Operative Text:** 11/07/20XX Facility A, Right Breast Mastectomy and SLN Biopsy: Right breast was lifted off the muscle and completely removed. Right SLN's were mapped; 2 SLN's were identified. Adjacent palpable non-sentinel node was removed and sent for pathology.
 - **Surgical Text:** 11/07/20XX Facility A, Right Breast Mastectomy and SLN Biopsy with additional palpable and non-sentinel lymph node removed.
 - **Path Text:** 11/07/20XX Facility A, Right Breast Mastectomy and SLN Biopsy with additional palpable non-sentinel lymph node—Right breast ILC, 2.1cm BR Gr 1. Margins and LVI: Negative. 00/04 SLNs, 00/01 Non-SLNs—all negative.

Correct Code: 02; Based on sufficient text, Scope of Regional Lymph Nodes should be coded to 2, SLNBx. See STORE for more details.

ETC CORNER

What is your New Year's Resolution?

It's December and soon we will have a new year to look forward to. As we consider our New Year's Resolutions, let's reflect on what is important to us (health, children, family, work, etc.). Many of the new ODS earning their certification in 2024 were the first to experience the certification exam in the remote environment. NCRA provided more accessibility for individuals across the country (and internationally) to sit for the exam without having to travel far and wide. In my own experience, the nearest testing facility was at least 1.5 hours away (not too bad in my opinion), while others had to travel and stay overnight in other regions of the country. This advancement in testing options was extraordinary! The Cancer Registry field is now more accessible than ever. With programs such as AHIMA (completely independent and self-paced) or Certificate Programs through Colleges and Universities and the NCRA's virtual practicum, more individuals are becoming ODS and looking for opportunities. NCRA is offering 2 different Badges (Data Management & Central Registry) until 01/01/2025 which are "designed to demonstrate competency of a topic specific to the cancer registry profession." Learning a new skill or amplifying your current skills would be a great New Year's Resolution in 2025! If you are looking for other ways to add to your skills, you can volunteer with your National or Local ODS associations and broaden your horizons in 2025! If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an ODS, please reach out to Melissa.Chapman@Arkansas.gov for more information. I am excited to help others achieve their goals in the new year!

Sincerely,
Melissa Chapman RHIT, ODS-C

RULES FOR ARKANSAS CANCER CASE REPORTING

In accordance with Arkansas cancer reporting law, 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 **June 30, 2024**, should have been reported to ACCR. If you still have cases remaining from this period, report them immediately. Cases should be reported via WebPlus.

Month	Abstract due to ACCR	Recommended Month Facility conducts Patient Follow-up	Follow-Up and Case Update sent to ACCR
May 2024	November 2024	May 2025	June 1
June 2024	December 2024	June 2025	July 1
July 2024	January 2025	July 2025	August 1

Questions?

Check out our updated Frequently Asked Questions on the ADH website!

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!

<https://healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/data-statistics-registries/arkansas-cancer-registry/>

Need assistance getting set up with cancer case reporting or are you experiencing issues with WebPlus? Contact Clint Lemons at 501-661-2141 or clint.lemons@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. We look forward to hearing from you!



Vital Records & Statistics Branch / Arkansas Central Cancer Registry

**Arkansas Department of Health
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Little Rock, AR 72205
healthy.arkansas.gov / 1-800-462-0599**