

ARKANSAS CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY

February 2026 Monthly Newsletter



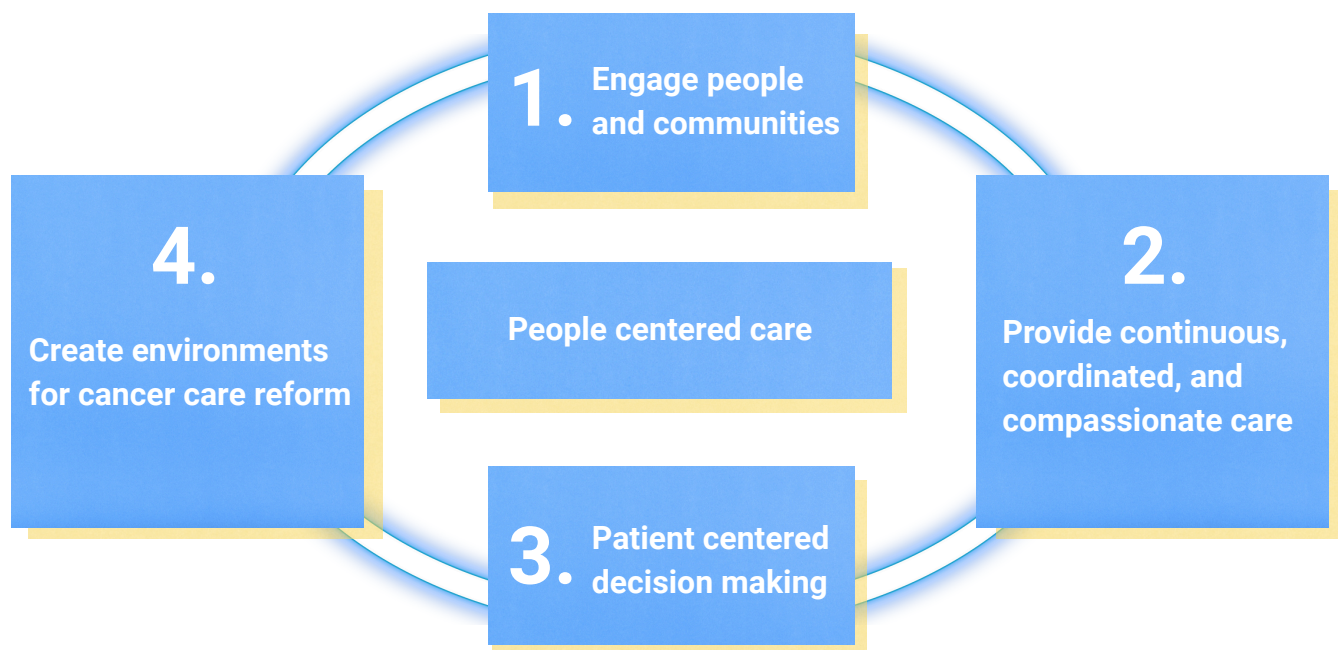
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The new year is in full swing, and many people have made resolutions to renew, recharge, rejuvenate, and rejoice in the countless opportunities it brings. In February, global awareness of cancer diagnoses is once again highlighted. World Cancer Day is observed on February 4th, followed just days later by International Childhood Cancer Day on February 15th. Together, these important observances honor unique experiences and serve as powerful calls for unity in the global fight against cancer.

The theme for World Cancer Day is continued this year as “United by Unique.” This theme emphasizes that every cancer journey is deeply personal, while underscoring the importance of unity in addressing cancer. By recognizing everyone’s unique needs, we can work together toward better care, stronger support, and improved outcomes for all. Four principles that can help to achieve these outcomes include:



DID YOU KNOW

Lymph Nodes and Lymphatic Structures Above and Below The Diaphragm

The SEER Summary Stage 2018 Manual v3.3 that was published in November 2025 has an entire section and list for ‘**Lymph Nodes and Lymphatic Structures Above and Below The Diaphragm**’. The section is a great reference tool for assistance in identifying the location of lymph nodes and lymphatic structures above and below the diaphragm. This identification is essential to appropriate primary site as well as stage coding.

✓ Check it out on page 368 of the SEER Summary Stage 2018 Manual!

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 **August 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
July 2025	January 2025	July 2026	August 1
August 2025	February 2026	August 2026	September 1
September 2025	March 2026	September 2026	October 1

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The 27th Arkansas Cancer Summit with the 23rd Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference
The Arkansas Cancer Summit (ACC) is one of ACC’s many well-documented successes and has always been centered on the growth and evolution of the Arkansas Cancer Plan and the partners that make up the Arkansas Cancer Coalition. The Summit provides a time for partners to celebrate, reflect and build new skills and networks. This year’s theme is From Vision to Victory: Advancing the Goals of the Arkansas Cancer Plan!

More information is available at <https://arcancercoalition.org/arkansas-cancer-summit/>.



Get ready to race to this phenomenal educational experience! Sign up to attend the **National Cancer Registrars Association's (NCRA)** Annual Educational Conference! Registration is now open!

The NCRA annual conference offers the most continuing education units in one place for ODS' recertification requirements. Don't miss this opportunity to earn your in-person CEUs! NCRA also has an editable [justification letter template](#) to assist you in conveying the importance of your attendance.



Click [2026 NCRA Annual Conference Online Registration](#) for more information!



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

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. The 2026 conference is hosted by the Manitoba Cancer Registry, CancerCare Manitoba.

For more information, go to <https://www.naaccr2026.org/>.

MONTHLY ABTRACTOR TIPS

Spotlight: Solid Tumor Rules 2026 Update

The 2026 updates to the [Solid Tumor Rules](#) (STR) and change logs are now available. As a reminder the most recent STR update should be used as soon as it is released. These rules are applied to 2018+ diagnosis year cases. Page 7 of the general instructions section has additional information on diagnosis years for which the STR should be applied.

Two notable updates include:

1. WHO* Grades Table 1 for select CNS* neoplasms has been replaced by a link to the most current CAP* Protocol for CNS. Note: WHO Grade is not equivalent to tumor grade.
2. An updated list of ambiguous terminology that can be applied when determining histology.

Focus Area: Surgical Margins

- Use the SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2026 for cases diagnosed January 1, 2026 forward.
- Review the Gross Description of the pathology report for any mention of positive tumor margins, this translates to macroscopic involvement and code 3 would then be applied.

*See ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS page.

- o If both a microscopic margin and a macroscopic margin are indicated as positive, the numerically higher code 3 is assigned.
- Apply code 8 (no primary site surgery) when the patient is diagnosed at autopsy.
- Apply code 9 when the margin status is not mentioned.
 - o Code 9 also applies to specific primary sites. These include: C420, C421, C423, C760-C768, C770-C779 and C809.
 - o When 'no residual melanoma' is described after a wide local excision or (WLE*), apply code 9, following the instruction to code based on the pathology report. The margins are not stated in this example, therefore, code 9 must be assigned.

ACCR EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES



Topic: Where Do I Find That?

Presenter: Janet Raleigh, ODS-C

Date/Time: February 10, 2026 @ 12 pm CST

Registration via: [FLccSC*](#)



This month, please take some time to watch the first educational presentation in the 2026 ACCR webinar series. In our first installment, scenarios are provided with instructions on the appropriate application of various manuals and efficient search tools, such as the use of CTRL+F for find/search. After reviewing the video presentation along with the completion of a short quiz, you will earn 1 Category A CE* credit. Please log into FLccSC* for the video presentation, PDF version presentation, applicable quiz and a short program survey. Contact Janet Raleigh, Education & Training Coordinator (ETC), with any questions.

ETC CORNER

Wow! Already one month into the new year! It's always exciting for me to learn new things, both professionally and personally. That excitement comes from many places, but at its core is the learning process itself-- followed by the opportunity to share what I've learned and help others. As cliché as it may sound, sharing truly is caring, and those of us who work in the cancer registry field naturally embody that caring nature.

Given the ferocity of this disease and the many elements patients must navigate—multiple tests, treatments, and follow-ups—the cancer care journey can be incredibly daunting. Patients enter a complex healthcare world that exists to support them, yet it can still feel overwhelming. This is where our commitment to accuracy becomes especially meaningful. Precise, thoughtful coding is not just a technical task; it is vital to supporting patient care, research, and outcomes in a way that honors their journey.

It is my honor and privilege to support that journey, as well as the educational journeys of all of us who are continually learning and applying that knowledge. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have—I am always happy to help.

Sincerely,

Janet Raleigh, ODS-C*

Education & Training Coordinator

*See ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS page.

ACCR UPDATES

The annual facility information update survey is now available online. We only need one submission per facility. Please get with your team to designate a point of contact (POC) for ACCR. The POC should be the individual to complete the online survey. Surveys must be submitted to ACCR by **11:59 PM on March 31, 2026**.

An email with the link was sent out to all facilities. If you did not receive the link the please email us at adh.accr@arkansas.gov to request the survey link.

[Click here to access the 2026 ACCR Facility Survey!](#)

You will need the information below readily available in order to complete the survey.

Facility Contact & ODS Outreach Survey Information

- Facility Name (complete for each facility you abstract or report for)
 - Type of Facility
 - Facility Affiliation, if applicable
 - Licensed with Arkansas Department of Health
 - Specialty
 - Facility Mailing Address
 - Cancer Abstractor/ODS name
 - Contractor Agency, if applicable
 - Is abstractor ODS-C
 - Job Title
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
 - Supervisor Name
 - Title
 - Email Address
- Phone Number
 - Facility/Hospital Executive, Manager, or CEO Name
 - Email Address
 - Mailing Address
 - Phone Number
 - Reporting Facility ID Assigned by ACCR
 - Frequency of reporting to ACCR
 - Total cancers diagnosed in:
 - 2024
 - 2025
 - Total initial treatment of cancer in:
 - 2024
 - 2025
 - Registry software and EMR system
 - Number of registry staff
 - CoC accreditation

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

For many, February is the month of love. Stores put up decorations with abundant items in red and pink colors. Online websites often change their color scheme to fit the theme of love. For those of us in the cancer prevention and data collection community, February means so much more. February is National Cancer Prevention Awareness Month. It is a month for us to reflect on the steps that can be taken to reduce our risk of cancer. We see cancer every day. We follow a patient's journey from initial diagnosis through treatment. We see so much more than just data. We see the hardships and the struggles.

This past year in talking to numerous ODS, I have come to realize that we often do not prioritize our own health. Let's take the month of February to follow suggested prevention guidelines for our own health. Schedule the appointments. Get screened. Love yourself!

Sincerely,

Lindsay M. Collins, MPA, ODS-C*
Registry Director



QUESTIONS?

Check out our 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!

healthyar.info/accr

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

Email 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/>

Has your facility changed locations, do you have a new facility manager, CEO, or Oncology Data Specialist or abstractor who is reporting cases? Send us your updates!

Email Tabatha.Wilkerson@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!

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACCR – Arkansas Central Cancer Registry

ADH – Arkansas Department of Health

AHL – Annotated Histology List

AI – Artificial Intelligence

CE – Continuing Education

CPC – Cancer PathCHART

DAM – Data Acquisition Manual (retired)

EHR – Electronic Health Record

EMR – Electronic Medical Record

FLccSC – Fundamental Learning Collaborative for the Cancer Surveillance Community

FORDS – Facility Oncology Registry Data Standards (retired)

ICD – International Classification of Diseases

NCRA – National Cancer Registrars Association

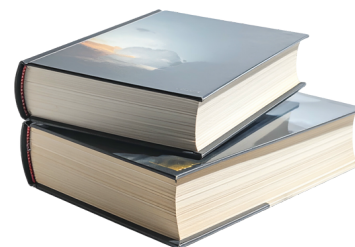
NLP – Natural Language Processing

ODS – Oncology Data Specialist

ROADS – Registry Operations and Data Standards (retired)

STORE – Standards for Oncology Registry Entry

WHO – World Health Organization



Division of Public Health Practice | Vital Records & Statistics Branch

Arkansas Central Cancer Registry

Arkansas Department of Health

4815 W. Markham, Slot 7

Little Rock, AR 72205

healthy.arkansas.gov / 1-800-462-0599