ARKANSAS CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY

October 2025 Monthly Newsletter

October is a key month for cancer awareness, highlighting Liver Cancer, Breast Cancer, and Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS), with MDS World Awareness Day recognized on October 25th.

Most people know October as **Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM)** or what many call **"Pinktober."** You've probably seen sports teams, especially in the NFL, rocking pink gear during games. Even local schools and high school teams join by wearing pink socks, ribbons, and more to show their support.

You can get involved too—whether it's wearing pink for a day, supporting a local fundraiser, or shopping at stores and restaurants donating a portion of proceeds to breast cancer organizations. Every bit helps spread awareness and support the fight!

The 2025 Komen Northwest Arkansas **MORE THAN PINK WALK** is being held on Saturday, October 25th. This event is being held at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR. The walk is 1.5 miles in length, and it is free to register. Beginning in 2018, the walk is an evolution from the Race for the Cure events. Participants are encouraged to share stories and passion, while connecting with others during this fundraising effort. More than $60 million dollars has been raised by this event!!

For more information, click on this link. 2025 Komen Northwest Arkansas MORE THAN PINK WALK

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2009, October 13th was declared and continues to be recognized as 'Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day' in the United States.

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 **April 30, 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
March 2024	September 2025	March 2026	April 1
April 2025	**October 2025**	**April 2026**	**May 1**
May 2025	November 2025	May 2026	June 1

ACCR EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

Topic: Colon
Presenter: Janet Raleigh, ODS-C

Date/Time: October 14, 2025 @ 12 pm CST
Registration via: **FLccSC**

This month's presentation will be an in-depth review of colon cancer. As with all past and current ACCR educational webinar presentations, 1 category A CE credit is available to earn by watching the presentation and completing the quiz in FLccSC.

Please reach out to Janet Raleigh, Educational Content Manger or Melissa Chapman, Education & Training Coordinator, with any questions.

ACCR VIRTUAL OFFICE HOUR

Need to speak directly to someone at ACCR about a coding, IT, or education related question? Do you have a case that you want ACCR to review with you? ACCR offers a unique opportunity to reach all its staff at once during its virtual office hour! Please dial in with your questions and ACCR will be happy to assist you
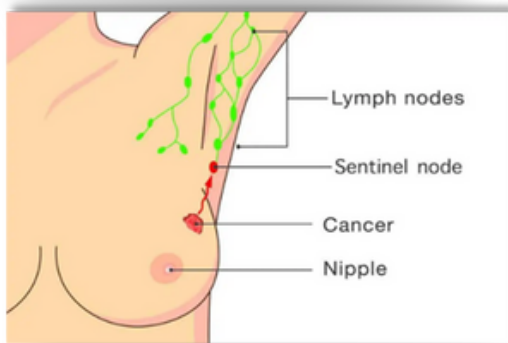
October 2025

Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM CST
Platform: Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 236 830 283 785 4
Passcode: E6Yw9mP6

Dial in by phone: +1 501-244-3310
Conference ID: 844 372 439#

MONTHLY ABSTRACTOR TIPS

Sentinel Lymph Nodes Positive

STORE 04/24/2025 UPDATE!

Record this data item when a sentinel lymph node biopsy is performed during the same procedure as a regional node dissection, and the # of positive sentinel lymph nodes are documented on path report

Record the total number of positive regional nodes (both sentinel and regional) in data item 'Regional Lymph Nodes Positive'

Clinical and Pathologic Stage Group

Review the clinical and pathologic prognostic stage tables for mapping assignments
Some qualify and map to the same stage group regardless of grade

TNM is	Grade is	HER2 is	ER is	PR is	Clinical Stage Group
• T1 N1 M0	• G1, G2	• Negative	• Positive	• Positive	• IB

TNM is	Grade is	HER2 is	ER is	PR is	Pathologic Stage Group
• T1 N0 M0	• G1, G2	• Negative	• Positive	• Positive	• IA

TNM is	Grade is	HER2 is	ER is	PR is	Clinical Stage Group
• T1 N0 M0	• G1, G2, or G3	• Negative	• Positive	• Positive	• IA

⚠️ **Please see the complete Clinical and Pathologic Prognostic Stage Group Tables in the AJCC manual or online version.**

RX Summ—Scope Reg LN Sur

For the female breast primary site coding of this data field, accuracy rates based on the NPCR Data Quality Evaluation for diagnosis year 2017, was one of the lowest accuracy proportions among all data items.

Scope of Reg LN Sur: Describes the removal, biopsy, or aspiration of regional lymph nodes at the time of surgery of the primary site or during a separate surgical event.

> A sentiniel lymph node biopsy only and/or sentinel lymph nodes examined = Code 2

> A sentiniel lymph node biopsy AND regional lymph nodes removed in the same procedure = Code 6

> Codes 3, 4, or 5 are used *when no distinction between sentinel lymph nodes* and other regional nodes examined are available

ETC CORNER

How Well Do You Know the NCCN Guidelines?

Many cancer registrars rely on the **NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) Guidelines** for staging and treatment reference—and for good reason. These documents are an incredibly valuable resource. However, with their extensive content and medical complexity, they can sometimes feel a bit overwhelming.

If you're looking for **comprehensive, evidence-based treatment information across all types of cancer**, the NCCN Guidelines are available **for free** at NCCN.org. Simply register for an account, then navigate to **"Guidelines"** and select **"Treatment by Cancer Type."** You'll find PDFs tailored to specific sites and histologies, providing treatment recommendations based on **stage at diagnosis, recurrence, and disease progression**.

These downloadable PDFs have long been a go-to resource for registrars and oncology professionals. But now, there's even better news, especially for those who refer to these guidelines often.

Introducing the NCCN Guidelines Navigator

The **NCCN Guidelines Navigator** is a new **digital tool** designed to make exploring the guidelines easier and faster. Once registered on NCCN.org, you can access this **interactive platform** that allows you to:

Search specific terms   Highlight relevant content
Filter recommendations   Move through the guidelines intuitively

This is a game-changer for those of us who've struggled with navigating bulky PDFs!

Currently Available for these Cancer Sites:

Bladder Cancer, Version 1.2025

Colon Cancer, Version 4.2025

Head and Neck Cancers, Version 5.2025

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, Version 8.2025

Prostate Cancer, Version 2.2025

Rectal Cancer, Version 3.2025

Uterine Neoplasms, Version 3.2025

More sites are expected to be added in future versions.

As someone who regularly uses the NCCN Guidelines for abstracting, I found this new navigator tool **much easier to use** than the traditional PDFs. It streamlines the process of finding exactly what you need without having to scroll endlessly or search multiple documents.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to explore the NCCN Guidelines Navigator—you might just find it's the upgrade you didn't know you needed.

Sincerely,
Melissa Chapman ODS-C, RHIT
Education & Training Coordinator

ACCR UPDATES

Web Plus has been updated and we are now accepting v25 cases.

ACCR's v26 required data items list has been posted to the utilities page!

The reportable casefinding list has been posted to the utilities page and is effective October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. This year we have included a supplemental casefinding list which increases casefinding for benign brain and CNS, hematopoietic neoplasms, and other reportable diseases!

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As we approach autumn, the central cancer registry will begin its annual call for data submission procedures. We ask that all facilities submit their remaining 2024 cancer abstracts by October 31, 2025. The timeline on page 2 of this newsletter highlights the current abstract month and provides a guideline of when follow-up data should be sent to the central cancer registry. Each year our data are evaluated on completeness, accuracy, and timeliness. Additionally, a recognition is bestowed on registries based on the Fitness for Use of their data meeting inclusion requirements for CiNA Surivival and CiNA prevalence Volumes of the CiNA Monograph.

We ask and encourage that all facilities provide timely follow-up data on cancer patients in order for our state to continue to monitor survival and treatment outcomes. This data is invaluable for future cancer research, treatments, and studies.

We appreciate all of the work that you do!

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!

Vital Records & Statistics Branch / Arkansas Central Cancer Registry

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