



Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System NOTES



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MCSS Restarts Rule Change Process

Several years ago, MCSS began the process of amending the rules that lay out the specifics of cancer reporting (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4606).

The purposes were to: (a) make Minnesota cancer data more compatible with cancer data from other areas of the United States and the world by including information on cases that are not microscopically confirmed; (b) comply with new national standards for data collection by modifying the list of required data items; (c) for the purposes of quality control, clarify the commissioner's authority to inspect medical records; (d) make it possible to do survival analyses and to learn more about the late effects of cancer by beginning to require that available follow-up information on cancer patients be reported to the MCSS; and (e) clarify that no in situ carcinomas of the uterine cervix are defined as "cancer."

We published an official "Request for Comments" in April 2002. Since then, we have experienced continued changes in the national standards for data reporting. Because of this, we have decided to propose a more flexible method for updating MCSS' list of required data items. Therefore, we plan to restart the rule change process by publishing a new Request for Comments.

Look for more information in separate mailings within the next few months.

Implementation of the SEER Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules Project

*Jane E. Braun, M.S., C.T.R.,
MCSS Assistant Director for Operations*

The National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program is coordinating the development of new multiple primary and histology coding rules to improve clarity, application, and consistency of cancer coding. Modifications will include new site-specific rules and a major modification to a hierarchical method of application. Documentation of the rules will be provided in three styles: standard text format; matrix format; and flowchart format.

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Site Teams, the National Program of Cancer Registries, and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries are part of the development team and are providing review, recommendations and approval.

The new rules will undergo a field trial in 2006, with full implementation scheduled for 2007. SEER is conducting train-the-trainer workshops, as well as developing web-based training, webcasts, and printed materials to present the new rules to registrars. The MCSS will be coordinating with the Minnesota Cancer Registrars Association to offer and publicize training opportunities for registrars.

Look for the September release: **"Cancer in Minnesota, 1988-2002"***

**This report summarizes 15 years of data from the MCSS to describe the burden of cancer in Minnesota.*

Breast Cancer Awareness

Carin Perkins, Ph.D., MCSS Epidemiologist

Each year, more than 3,600 Minnesota women are diagnosed with an invasive breast cancer. It is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among women, accounting for one out of every three female cancers. But because survival is high, for every woman newly diagnosed with breast cancer, ten more are living with a history of this disease.

Despite slow but steady increases in the risk of developing breast cancer, the breast cancer mortality rate in Minnesota has decreased by almost 30 percent over the past 15 years. More women are surviving due to improved treatment and earlier diagnosis. Nearly 70 percent of breast cancers diagnosed among Minnesota women are now found at an early stage.

To celebrate these survivors and the gains made, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To remind us of the value of early detection, October 21, 2005 is National Mammography Day.

The Sage Program at the Minnesota Department of Health provides free Pap tests, mammograms and follow-up services to under-insured and uninsured low income women ages 40-64.

For more information about the Sage Program, call the toll-free number:

1-888-6-HEALTH (888-643-2584)

Standard Abbreviation Codes for Registrars

For several years, the MCSS has stressed the importance of supporting text in abstracts submitted by hospital registries. Since the standard transmission record layout contains only 250 characters for each text block, and registrars work under heavy time constraints, standardized abbreviations are useful to improve record clarity and efficiency.

The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) developed an extensive list of abbreviations for cancer registrars, compiled from a variety of sources. The abbreviations, published in NAACCR Volume II, Appendix G, were entitled "Recommended Abbreviations for Abstractors." The listing is available in hardcopy (page 377 of Volume II) as well as electronically from the NAACCR website www.naacr.org. (To access the listing, click on Registration Standards, Standards, Data Standards and Data Dictionary, select the PDF version, and scroll to page 393.)

The MCSS endorses and encourages the use of these standard abbreviations whenever space or time does not allow use of full words in supporting text.

October 21st is National Mammography Day!

Sept 16
Four Points
Sheraton Hotel
St. Paul, MN

Pieces of a Dream: The Reality of African-American Health Care in Minnesota and Cancer Disparity
Sponsored by The Minnesota Association of Black Physicians Foundation
For registration info, visit <http://www.mabp.org> or phone 612-362-3737 by 9/9.

Sept 24
Mayo Bldg 4th Fl
Minneapolis, MN

Open House of the new Center for Prostate Cancer: University of MN
Get a free PSA screening, enjoy refreshments and meet the staff.
Call 612-625-6401 for more information.

Sept 30 – Oct 2
Just outside NYC
New York

Colon Cancer Alliance's 5th Annual Colorectal Cancer Conference
The conference will be held at the Wyndham Newark Airport Hotel.
<http://www.ccalliance.org>

Oct 4-5
Hennepin Co. Medical
Examiners' Office
530 Chicago Ave
Minneapolis, MN

22nd Annual Forensic Science Seminar
Presented by the MN Medical Assn in joint sponsorship with the MN Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Assn, and the Hennepin Co. Medical Examiners' Office.
Call Michael Rossman at 612-215-6320 or visit <http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us> (scroll to bottom right References section and select Departments & Agencies).

Oct 28
Park Nicollet Clinic
St. Louis Park, MN

Oncology Update
To be held at the Park Nicollet Institute in the Naegele Auditorium.
Call Mary White 952-993-3531 or go online <http://www.parknicollet.com/cme>

Nov 11
Airport Hilton
Mpls – St. Paul, MN

Thoracic Oncology and Primary Care
To request a future brochure, click on Full Calendar at <http://www.cme.umn.edu> or call the University of Minnesota CME Office for more information: 800-776-8636.

Nov 12-13
Radisson Plaza Hotel
Rochester, MN

CT Colonography: The Largest Clinical Experience
MN Med. Association in joint sponsorship with Matrix Meetings, Inc. Contact Barbara McLeod or Janet Severson at 507-288-5620 or email matrixmeetings@charter.net.

EVENTS OF

INTEREST

TECHNICAL NOTE

Electronic Pathology Reporting: E-Path Pilot Project Overview

Wendy Scharber, R.H.I.T., C.T.R., MCSS Assistant Director for Information Management

Goal: To determine the feasibility of, and work out the technical issues for, a secure system for pathology labs to send encrypted pathology reports electronically to the Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System over an internet connection.

Participants: MCSS contracted with a company called VisionShare to provide hardware, software, licenses, and support. Resources were available to work with three pathology labs that could generate their pathology reports in the HL7 (Health Language, version 7) format.

Provided Service: Labs receive licenses for the secure communications software, which is then installed by VisionShare on the computer the lab designates. The software provides a very easy way to submit a file to the MCSS. Basically, they place a file in a "folder" and the encryption and submission is done automatically. VisionShare also provides the labs with software support, and all necessary configuration of firewalls and telecommunications equipment.

Disbursement of Major Responsibilities:

MCSS:

- Identify the facilities and make the initial contacts
- Maintain the server
- Load the files into the database
- Develop a reporting system on the flow of reports
- Develop a viewer and file storage programs so that the reports can be reviewed and processed appropriately
- Work with labs to develop HL7 message/file
- Test file for completeness and accuracy

Labs:

- Identify an information technology person to work with VisionShare and the MCSS
- Generate pathology reports in HL7 message format
- Send the reports to the MCSS at the specified intervals
- Work with VisionShare and MCSS staff on any technical issues

VisionShare:

- Purchase and install the MCSS server and encryption software; train MCSS staff to operate and maintain it
- Administer, monitor, and enforce security and encryption
- Provide licenses to the labs; teach them to encrypt and send their files
- Provide all software support
- Map the labs' data into a file that can be loaded directly into the MCSS database

Timeframe: This is a two-year pilot project with approximately one year remaining.

E-Path Project Update: August 2005

Wendy Scharber, R.H.I.T., C.T.R., MCSS Assistant Director for Information Management

- One large metro health system began live electronic pathology reporting on August 1, 2005 and continues to send files daily.
- Another facility has successfully transmitted test files and is currently working on the final stages of creating the electronic pathology report record.
- Four pathology laboratories are actively exploring E-Path as a substitute for paper reporting through the U.S. mail.

Registrars or Laboratory personnel may contact their Field Service Representatives to learn more about using E-Path for reporting.

ONLINE NEWS SOURCES

Cancer Plan Minnesota 2005-2010. <http://www.cancerplanmn.org>

CDC State Cancer Burden Data. Minnesota cancer burden data with comparison of Minnesota cancer burden to that of the nation. <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/CancerBurden/mn/htm>

National Cancer Institute (NCI) CancerNet. Select any cancer type for introductory overview, statistics, clinical trials, genetics, causes, risk factors, and more: http://www.cancer.gov/cancer_information/cancer_type

National Cancer Institute (NCI) News Releases. <http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter>

American Cancer Society (ACS) Medical Updates. http://www.cancer.org/docroot/NWS/NWS_1.asp



The Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System (MCSS) is the state's cancer registry. It is an ongoing program within the Section of Chronic Disease and Environmental Epidemiology at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Upcoming National Health Observances*

including links to websites that have additional information/materials about each topic.

September

Gynecological Cancer Awareness
www.thegcf.org
 Leukemia/Lymphoma Awareness
www.lls.org
 Ovarian Cancer Awareness
www.ovarian.org

October

Prostate Cancer Awareness
www.pcccoalition.org
 Breast Cancer Awareness
www.nbcam.org
 The Great American Smokeout
www.cancer.org

November

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness
www.pancan.org
 Lung Cancer Awareness
www.alcase.org
 Hospice Month
www.nhpca.org

**Source: National Health Information Center, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.*

***** MCSS Notes is Available Online *****

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/cdee/mcss/MCSSNotes.html>

Change of name or address? Please notify the editor.

MCSS Notes

MCSS Notes is published quarterly by the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System (MCSS), in cooperation with the Minnesota Society of Pathologists (MSP). Upon request, this information will be made available in alternate format, such as large print, Braille, or cassette.

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 Commissioner of Health

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