



Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System Notes



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MCSS to begin major reabstraction study this winter

By Carin Perkins

The MCSS will be conducting a major reabstraction study over the coming year as part of a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Breast and Prostate Cancer Data Quality and Patterns of Care*. You may have heard this project referred to as the Patterns of Care Study, or PoC, at the two Minnesota Cancer Registrars' Association meetings paid for by the study over the last year. We ask your cooperation to assure that this important project runs as smoothly as possible for all involved. The two primary purposes of the project are to assess the quality and completeness of data, especially collaborative stage and treatment variables, and to assess the proportion of Minnesota breast and prostate cancer patients who received recommended treatment.

A random sample of approximately 1,500 breast and 1,500 prostate cancers will be included in the project, the vast majority diagnosed in 2004. Because of the size of the study, it is likely that nearly all facilities and

hospital registries will have at least some cases included in the study. As with previous reabstraction studies conducted by MCSS, each facility will be provided with a list of patients whose records will be reviewed and will be contacted to schedule a reabstraction date several weeks in advance. We expect to be in the field for approximately 12 months, so it is likely that facilities will be contacted by MCSS sometime between mid-October 2007 and mid-September 2008.

The primary responsibilities of facilities will be to :

- make requested medical records available when the project CTR arrives,
- arrange for adequate space for the project CTR to work, and
- provide access to electronic records if any of the requested information is in electronic format.

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Data will be entered on laptops using AbstractPlus, and in some situations, more than one project CTR may be involved. We will do everything possible to minimize your extra work and to be as unobtrusive as possible. We thank you in advance for your patience and willing cooperation. A benefit to you is that the PoC study will take the place of MCSS reabstracting studies of 2004 data.

The project is currently staffed by four highly experienced CTRs familiar to many Minnesota registrars, Gail Jolitz, Mary Lou Mismash, Lolly Naslund and Denise Pederson. Elaine Collins will be adding some project responsibilities to her MCSS tasks as well. .

All study activities are mandated by Minnesota statutes (144.671 to 144.69) and rules (4606.3300 to 4606.3309). Release of patient medical records for these purposes is permitted under HIPAA without patient consent, and

has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Health Institutional Review Board. Following MCSS policy, no individuals, facilities or providers will be publicly identified by name or in ways that might inadvertently allow them to be identified.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carin Perkins by phone at (651)201-5906 or email, carin.perkins@health.state.mn.us.

Once again, thank you in advance for your help and cooperation with this important project. We are all looking forward to working with you.



HOSPITAL REGISTRARS AND CANCER REPORTERS WEBINARS

The Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System (MCSS) is again sponsoring a series of FREE webinars for Hospital Registrars and Cancer Reporters beginning in October 2007. These webseminars (Webinars) for cancer data collectors are presented by The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). They will be offered in 3 locations simultaneously (see below for location information). A webinar includes a presentation by an instructor with an audio portion (telephone) and a visual portion (computer through the Internet).

Each webinar will address cancer data collection for a specific site and will include information on anatomy, multiple primary and histology coding rules, collaborative staging, and treatment data items as required by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) Commission on Cancer (CoC). Didactic exercises will be completed and answers with rationale will be presented. There will also be a question and answer session.

For more information contact:

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Rochester—Mayo—

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November 3, 2007 **Lymphoma Workshop: Understanding Lymphoma Basics and Current Treatment Options**
 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hotel,
 3800 American Blvd E.,
 Bloomington MN
 For more information, visit www.lymphoma.org

November 15, 2007 **Great American Smokeout**
<http://www.cancer.org/docroot/subsite/greatamericans/Smokeout.asp>

January 10, 2008 **NAACCR Hospital Registry Webinar Series**
Topic: Hospital Cancer Registry Operations
 8am – 12 pm
 Red River Room
 Snelling Office Park
 1645 Energy Park Dr.
 St. Paul, MN
Contact: Jill Kyvig jill.kyvig@health.state.mn.us

January 2008 **National Radon Action Month**
<http://www.epa.gov/radon/rnactionmonth.html>

February 14, 2008 **NAACCR Hospital Registry Webinar Series**
Topic: Cancer Treatment and How to Code It: Surgery, Radiation, Systemic, and Other
 8am – 12 pm
 Red River Room
 Snelling Office Park
 1645 Energy Park Dr.
 St. Paul, MN
To Register: jill.kyvig@health.state.mn.us



Online Resources

University of Minnesota Cancer Center	HTTP://WWW.CANCER.UMN.EDU
Oncolink	HTTP://ONCOLINK.UPENN.EDU
American Cancer Society	HTTP://WWW.CANCER.ORG
National Cancer Institute	HTTP://WWW.CANCER.GOV/
Center for Disease Control	HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/CANCER/
Cancer News	HTTP://WWW.CANCERNEWS.COM



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 MCSS Rule Change to Require Providers to Collect and Report Occupational and Residential Histories on Cancer Patients

MCSS is about to publish a formal request for comments regarding rule changes in response to the legislation mentioned in our last newsletter (MCSS Notes, Volume 20, Number 2, Summer 2007, page 4). The collection of occupational and residential histories will be included in the rule change process. We will be convening a work group to provide input and recommendations about how this should be done.

We would welcome input from providers, administrators, and epidemiologists regarding this proposed change. Please contact Sally Bushhouse, MCSS Director, to share your thoughts and/or volunteer to participate in the work group, by phone at 651-201-5374, letter at 85 E 7th Place, P.O Box 64882, St. Paul, MN 55164-0882, or email at [sally.bushhouse\(at\)health.state.mn.us](mailto:sally.bushhouse(at)health.state.mn.us).

MCSS Notes

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Coming Topics in the NAACCR Hospital Registry Webinar Series

- 1/10/2008 Hospital Cancer Registry Operations
- 2/14/2008 Cancer Treatment and How to Code It: Surgery, Radiation, Systemic, and Other
- 3/6/2008 Abstracting Thyroid Cancer Incidence and Treatment Data
Abstracting Larynx Cancer Incidence and Treatment Data
- 4/10/2008 Abstracting Gynecologic Cancer Incidence and Treatment Data