

2020 NPCR WISCONSIN CANCER REPORTING SYSTEM SUCCESS STORY

STORY TOPIC: Improving Efficiency for the Registry and Our Reporters

STORY CATEGORY: Registry Operations

STORY TITLE: New Tool for Facilities: A Web-based Dermatology Form

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SUMMARY

Many dermatology clinics in Wisconsin submit paper neoplasm reports or individual pathology reports without accompanying abstracts due to a lack of dedicated, trained staff in the clinics. This is burdensome for the Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System (WCRS), who is responsible for abstracting the records. WCRS developed an easy-to-use Web Plus form for melanoma reporting which saves time for both the dermatology clinics and the registry.

CHALLENGE

For the most part, dermatology clinics in Wisconsin submit “paper” records to WCRS. This has been troublesome in many ways. From the perspective of the clinic, it has meant that they need to use staff time to prepare and submit these paper records. This often resulted in missing or incomplete records due to challenges with the fax machine, and later, email. There is also an additional challenge of delayed reporting due to preparation from the clinic office. From the perspective of WCRS staff, paper records are burdensome in other ways. WCRS staff had to receive these records, following up with the clinic to get records that were incomplete. In some instances, the clinic would not mail, fax, or email the records and WCRS staff would pick up records in person from a clinic. This shows great dedication on the part of WCRS staff, but is not ideal for workload, or efficient processes. Additionally, WCRS had to prepare and abstract the records electronically, which took a great deal of additional staff and contractor time. For these reasons, working with paper records was time consuming and frustrating on both sides. A few dermatology clinics submitted abstracted cases through Abstract Plus, but the process required a lot of staff time and involved completing numerous data fields not pertinent to skin cancers with melanoma histology. Clinics requested an easier way to accomplish this task, and registry staff knew there had to be a more efficient process.

SOLUTION

Many of the WCRS’s 2020 projects were shelved when WCRS team members were asked to assist on public health projects related to COVID-19. The development of a Wisconsin-specific Web Plus form that dermatology clinics could use to report melanoma cases was very important to the team. Using momentum from early in 2020, we developed a short form in Web Plus with the required data items specific to melanoma. This form eliminated the need to use Abstract Plus to complete melanoma cases. This form contains all standard setter required data fields.

A dermatology clinic approached WCRS during the development and testing phase, asking if a web-based submission for melanoma was possible. This was a perfectly timed opportunity to ask the clinic to pilot the use of the new Web Plus form. After initial onboarding the clinic staff, it became obvious that a specialized user manual would be helpful for onboarding and training. WCRS staff wrote a “quick guide” for dermatology

reporting, which includes a reference section for all data items. This guide streamlined the onboarding process for the next two dermatology clinics as they began to use the new form to report melanoma cases.

RESULTS

The Web Plus dermatology reporting short form is making a positive impact both in reporting and in staff time savings. Informal feedback from the clinics indicates that they are supportive of the web form and find it easy to use. This information has been valuable, as it demonstrates clinics are willing to use the form.

There are currently three dermatology groups in Wisconsin onboarded to the Web Plus dermatology form. In 2016, there were 1667 cases of melanoma of the skin in Wisconsin. WCRS has received 343 abstracts via the web-based form. The use of the form puts accountability on dermatology clinics to complete the abstracts. In the past, many of the clinics in Wisconsin submitted paper records to WCRS for abstraction. This meant time-consuming work on behalf of WCRS staff. Since the form was implemented, we are saving about 10 hours per month in staff and contractor time.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

There are six other large dermatology clinics and many smaller clinics around Wisconsin that can use the web-based form. WCRS plans to onboard two of the remaining clinics before the end of 2020. Through 2021, WCRS will continue to onboard and work with the remaining clinics on the use of the form.

WCRS has also discovered that this type of form could have other uses, for example Wisconsin's urology clinics also report "paper" records. Urology clinics in Wisconsin tend to under report due to the clinics' dependence on laboratory pathology reporting, which results in missing treatment and/or "active surveillance" documentation. The use of a web-based form could greatly improve reporting in this area. In 2021 we plan work to develop a prostate-specific form for those clinics.

There is minimal ongoing training needed for the clinics. The WCRS trainer will follow up with specific clinics on an as-needed basis, particularly to provide continuing awareness of the form and to communicate any requirement changes. We will update the quick guide as requirements change.

REGISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System

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