

# WASHINGTON

Washington State Cancer Registry (WSCR); Mahesh Keitheri Cheteri<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Fedorenko<sup>2</sup>, Patti Migliore Santiago<sup>1</sup>, Karma Kzeizenbeck<sup>2</sup>, Scott Ramsey<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup> Washington State Cancer Registry, Washington State Department of Health, <sup>2</sup> Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

## WSCR Data-Sharing Collaborations Highlight Potential Cost Savings for Community Partners

# NATIONAL PROGRAM OF CANCER REGISTRIES SUCCESS STORY

**SUMMARY:** In 2018, the Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research (HICOR) at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC) published a report on quality and cost of cancer care at the clinic-level in Washington State, a first in the nation report of this type. Results were derived from linking Washington State Cancer Registry (WSCR) data with enrollment and claims records from commercial and public health insurance plans. Data analyzed included approximately 70 percent of cancer patients in Washington State from 2014 - 2016. HICOR is hopeful that the report will help to reduce variability in cancer care and cost across clinics, and also encourage collaboration, research, and innovation in cancer care in Washington.

**CHALLENGE:** WA State Internal Review Board processes result in final execution of an agreement taking over a year for some entities.

**SOLUTION:** WSCR will evaluate the time required to process data sharing agreements based on entity-type and create a guide with suggested timelines for researchers and staff. Our ultimate goal is to gain access All Payers Database in Washington State in order to conduct linkage studies that can help reduce the need for multiple data sharing agreements.

**RESULTS:** In 2018, HICOR, based at FHCRC, published a community cancer care report on quality and cost at the clinic-level in Washington State, a first in the nation report of this type. This report was possible due to collaboration between HICOR and WSCR, which linked WSCR incidence data with health insurance claims data that included Premera Blue Cross, Regence BlueShield, the Washington State Uniform Medical Plan and Medicare. The clinical information came from the cancer registry for the report and it included about 70 percent of cancer patients who received care in Washington State from 2014 and 2016.

The report highlighted that in Washington State we were doing well on providing recommended treatment for breast, colorectal and lung cancer patients. Based on treatment guidelines, about 86 percent of breast, colorectal and lung cancer patients received recommended treatments in appropriate time. However, there were areas where the clinics had room to improve on cancer care. For example, about 52% of cancer patients made an emergency department visit or were hospitalized during their chemotherapy treatment within the first six months treatment time period. Clinics with lower hospitalizations were generally associated with having a lower treatment cost, suggesting that targeted efforts to reduce emergency department visits and inpatient hospitalizations could result in additional cost savings. The full report is available here:

<https://www.fredhutch.org/cancer-care-report>.

**SUSTAINING SUCCESS:** WSCR plans to do more data linkages in the near future as new data become and based on any possible updates to the report. WSCR will also try to obtain other health insurance claims data sets that were missing from this report. Our goal is to obtain all claims data sets in Washington State for the future linkage projects.

**NPCR**  
NATIONAL PROGRAM OF CANCER REGISTRIES



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion