DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC Cancer Registry, Alfreda Woods

Utilizing DC Metafile to Reduce Abstracting Errors

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF CANCER REGISTRIES
SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY: Data quality is important to ensure comprehensive cancer research for the District of Columbia Cancer Registry (DCCR). Hospital registries are responsible for collecting accurate staging information and relevant text to verify the coded variables by using the standardized cancer data collection resources and rules. To maintain consistency, hospital registries can use the appropriate edit set to identify and correct any errors in their cancer data. Through implementing a DC Specific Metafile for reporting facilities, DCCR has seen a significant improvement in the quality of data submission.

CHALLENGE: The problem resulted with the hospital registries data containing numerous errors upon receipt by the DCCR. More than half of the facilities reporting to DCCR submitted registry data containing numerous errors, falling below the percentage for data quality. Some of the errors identified were behavior and SEER summary stage conflict, assignment of laterality assigned to non-paired organs, blank SEER summary stage and incorrect regional/examined nodes coded for hematologic cancers. After further review of the problem, it was determined that the facilities were using different metafiles to perform edits on the data submissions and the edit sets were not capturing the consistent errors that were being identified.

SOLUTION: In January 2018, the DCCR created and distributed a DC Specific Metafile to all reporting hospitals. The metafile included the necessary edits that would capture the common errors prior to submission to DCCR. Facilities began to use of the metafile in February 2018 with the submission of data for 2017 diagnoses. Due to the implementation of the DC Specific Metafile, the reporting facilities were able to identify their errors and submit data with no errors.

RESULTS: After implementation of the DC Specific Metafile, the common errors that were seen prior were eliminated. The metafile provided the necessary edit set to capture any errors that needed to be corrected before submission to DCCR.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS: Long term success will be measured by continuing to monitor the quality measures for data submissions and provide edit updates as they are made available.