

2019 NPCR KANSAS SUCCESS STORY

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Overcoming Registry Operation Challenges

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF CANCER REGISTRIES SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY: This is a brief of how Kansas Cancer Registry (KCR) converted the RMCDS from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) from version 16 to version 18 while accommodating standard setters' untimely releasing standards to registry database software vendors.

CHALLENGE: Our challenge is to convert from NAACCR version 16 to NAACCR version 18 while KCR verified the conversion algorithm that was used by RMCDS. This challenge was compounded for a need to conduct conversion for both hospital and central registry versions of RMCDS. Converting hospital-based RMCDS first, followed by the KCR RMCDS would undoubtedly prolong the conversion timeline.

SOLUTION: RMCDS started testing conversion from the NAACCR version 16 to 18 in December 2018. With Kansas not being one of the voluntary testing states for RMCDS, KCR received the final conversion instructions in February 2019 after the standard setters finalized their changes in late January 2019. In February KCR first converted one hospital's RMCDS to NAACCR version 18 using the NAACCR 18B Edits. After this KCR sent a copy of the 18B edits to all software vendors. KCR and RMCDS started converting Kansas hospitals using the RMCDS in February and March 2019. In April 2019 the NAACCR 18C Edits were released and KCR created a new Edit set and again sent it to all Kansas hospitals and vendors. In May and June of 2019 KCR and RMCDS converted the KCR version of RMCDS. KCR then used the SAS PROC COMPARE to

cross-validate NAACCR full abstracts between the versions 16 and 18. RMCDS would make changes based on feedback from KCR abstractors. KCR incorporated the updated RMCDS and converted again. Using PROC COMPARE KCR was able to identify issues that were relevant to conversion algorithm as well as errors related to rule changes. This key step provided the RMCDS team the necessary insights to update the RMCDS database without resolving manifestations from conversion algorithm and rule changes.

RESULTS: The central registries and hospitals that use RMCDS software in Kansas have converted from NAACCR version 16 to version 18. In the two months since the conversion, KCR has brought a significant number of cases into the central registry database. KCR ran the final conversion to version 18 in July 2019 and started importing cases into the main RMCDS system in August 2019. In July of this year, KCR had zero 2018 diagnosed cases in the database. In August and September of 2019 KCR imported almost 14,000 cases, primarily 2018 year of diagnosis cases into the KCR database.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS: The Kansas Cancer Registry has a team of staff members having diverse experience and expertise understanding the value of tools such as SAS programming. Sustaining this type of success is not likely to be an issue.

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