

2023 NPCR ARIZONA SUCCESS STORY

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Moving the Needle with Electronic Reporting

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

To increase electronic reporting capabilities, the Arizona Cancer Registry (ACR) is pursuing different methods.

- The ACR has been collecting paper-based case reports from non-hospital reporters (physician offices and clinics) since 1992. The ACR has partnered with several non-hospital reporters and started transitioning toward electronic reporting using Web Plus for melanoma.
- The ACR is expanding electronic laboratory reporting by collaborating with both internal and external partners.

CHALLENGE

- Non-hospital Reporters:
 - » Non-hospital case reports are received in paper format and are manually entered and abstracted by ACR staff.
 - » Staffing levels are not adequate to process non-hospital paper case reports in a timely manner.
 - » Tracking paper case reports takes additional time and effort.
 - » Software utilized by non-hospital reporters are not able to submit cancer registry-specific data items electronically.
- Laboratory Reporting:
 - » Several pathology laboratories are still submitting paper reports by mail.
 - » Paper pathology laboratory case reports are manually entered and abstracted by the ACR staff.
 - » Pathology laboratories frequently do not send patient demographic information when reporting by paper.

SOLUTION

- Non-hospital Reporters:
 - » Use Web Plus to report cancer cases to reduce the need for manual data entry and abstraction.
 - » Identify a primary contact from the health care provider when multiple staff members or locations are responsible for cancer reporting.
- Laboratory Reporting:
 - » Partner with Association of Public Health Laboratories Informatics Messaging Services (APHL AIMS) and CDC NPCR to transition to eReporting for pathology labs to reduce paper reports received and to identify new labs that are not reporting.
 - » Partner with Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) program to capture HL7 messages from labs that are not participating in the APHL AIMS project.

RESULTS

- Non-hospital Reporters:
 - » ACR launched reporting through Web Plus, successfully onboarding 3 dermatology clinics.
 - » ACR used Web Plus to reduce manual data entry.
 - » Identifying a primary contact/user for Web Plus at the provider level has resulted in a more efficient reporting structure, a smoother Web Plus training experience, and more complete case information.
- Laboratory Reporting:
 - » 6 laboratories are now eReporting to Arizona via APHL AIMS and 1 lab via the ADHS ELR program.
 - » The ACR has been able to reduce the amount of manual data entry of reports and streamline processes for pathology laboratory eReporting.
 - » Not every laboratory is willing or able to participate in APHL AIMS project; we provided an alternative eReporting option via the ADHS ELR program to capture HL7 messages from these pathology labs.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- The knowledge gained from the process of developing the dermatology Web Plus template, the accompanying training materials, and training several offices on how to use Web Plus will aid the ACR in repeating this success with other non-hospital reporters.
- The ACR additionally developed Web Plus templates for other non-melanoma cancer sites to increase eReporting to other non-hospital reporting sources.
- The ACR has developed relationships with the ADHS ELR program and APHL AIMS. We will continue to work with these programs to further eReporting for pathology laboratories that are still reporting through a paper-based reporting method.

STORY QUOTE

“It is critically important for all laboratories to report cancer diagnoses to state and federal agencies. By doing so, the data can help inform decision makers about where opportunities may be for cancer research and treatment so our communities can be healthier. Over the last year, Sonora Quest Laboratories has been using this innovative, automated platform to report its cancer diagnoses to AZDH and the National Program of Cancer Registries. This provides collaborative, prompt, and accurate reporting – all of which is a direct correlation to high-quality, patient-centered care.”
– Tony Cerullo, Administrative Technical Director, Anatomic Pathology

REGISTRY CONTACT

Arizona Cancer Registry
<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/public-health-statistics/cancer-registry/index.php>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention