Welcome to the first edition of the Alaska Cancer Registry Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to give us a fun way to share information and updates with all of our reporting facilities.

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Jenna Feddersen, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and Teri Schade, Alaska Native Tumor Registry took the National Cancer Registrar Association’s (NCRA) Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR) exam in March 2013 and passed. Congratulations Jenna and Teri!

There are currently nine CTR’s in the state of Alaska!

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ACR Comings and Goings

ACR is sad to report that we have lost one of our team members in January 2014. Chris Geri has left Alaska and has moved to Florida. We wish him the best in his new endeavors, warmer weather and family. Here is a picture of Chris’ farewell dinner at Sourdough Mining Co.

ACR would also like to welcome Kelly Tschida, who is the new Chronic Disease Program Manager. Kelly is the program manager of the Cancer Registry, Comprehensive Cancer Program, Diabetes Program, and the Heart Disease and Stroke Program.

Farewell Chris and Welcome Kelly!
April Fritz presented CYA w/TXT at the Arizona Cancer Registry Training Workshop in May. Go to the Arizona Cancer Registry website to print a copy of this training.

Per April, when we validate codes with text, we should do the following:

- **Text who, what, when and where of a patient’s cancer**
- Keep it simple. Do not write a book. Concise and precise text which is pertinent to the cancer.
- **You need to text enough to recode the case from the text provided.**
- Use approved abbreviations and symbols. ACR recommends the NAACCR Standard Abbreviations.

**CAUTION:** SCC can mean squamous cell carcinoma or small cell carcinoma. Per ACR, if using an abbreviation can lead to confusion, please do not abbreviate but text the entire word.

**Correct text documentation not only validates your codes, but can also:**

- Explain accidental typos
- Explains anomalies in codes
- Documents missing and/or unknown data
- Fills in any holes
- Reduces queries from your central registry aka Alaska Cancer Registry!

**National Program for Cancer Registries (NPCR)**

The importance of text was a theme that was mentioned several times during the National Cancer Registrars Association Conference and at the National Program for Cancer Registries (NPCR) Education and Training Coordinators Workshop in San Francisco.

**NPCR states the following:**

- Text is a required data field.
- It is essential to prioritize the information that you document.
- Use only approved abbreviations that can be interpreted universally. ACR recommends using the NAACCR approved abbreviations and symbols.
- Do not repeat unnecessary details.
- Dates need to be documented the text fields also.
Purpose: Justify what you have coded if one or the other does not match, the text or the codes should be revised.

- If the code is not justified by your text, it is considered a discrepancy.
- Document what is necessary to support your codes and use only approved abbreviations.
- Most useful text is: brief, concise and addresses pertinent issues.
- Do prioritize information to be entered – the most important information first.
- Do document positive and negative findings if pertinent to the tumor; document the positive findings first.
- Do text age, race, date of diagnosis and extent of disease.
- Do state missing info.

Your work is important so make sure your text reflects it.

Addition attachments – you will find two documents from NAACCR. These are errata’s for NAACCR Standards Volume II Version 13 & 14, Data Dictionary for RX Text fields.

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Update from SEER

The latest update of the Hematopoietic & Lymphoid Neoplasm Coding Manual and Database has been posted on the SEER website [http://www.seer.cancer.gov/tools/heme/](http://www.seer.cancer.gov/tools/heme/) this update replaces the 2010 and 2012 versions of both the manuals and the databases. The previous versions are no longer available.

This latest update is applicable for all cases diagnosed 1/1/2010 and forward. Also available is a webpage describing the major changes [http://www.seer.cancer.gov/tools/heme/update.html](http://www.seer.cancer.gov/tools/heme/update.html)

A new user’s guide is also available for navigating the new format of the database [http://www.seer.cancer.gov/django/seertools/static/docs/Web_Hema_Lymph_DB.pdf](http://www.seer.cancer.gov/django/seertools/static/docs/Web_Hema_Lymph_DB.pdf)

To access the Hematopoietic & Lymphoid Neoplasm Coding Manual, open the database and select one of the current codes (not an obsolete code). Click on the link to open the information for that code. Find the “Help me code for dx year.” The year must be 2010 or forward (default is 2014 for current codes).
Under that will be the link to coding manual. Click on the link and open the manual. At that time you can save a copy of the PDF to your computer. If you choose years 2001-2009, the information for coding multiple primaries applicable for those years will appear.

Please submit your questions to Ask a SEER Registrar [http://www.seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html](http://www.seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html)

Jennifer Ruhl, SEER Public Health Analyst

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**CSv02.05**

With a new diagnosis year, comes a new coding scheme. SEER*Educate has added coding exercises for 16 site groups using CSv02.05. There are 10 cases per site group. We have requested 5 CE per site group from NCRA.

**2014 Heme**

SEER recently published a new Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Manual and Database. Assess your understanding of the coding and reportability rules by coding the case scenarios. Receive a detailed step-by-step rationale that walks you through the process using the new manual and database. The Heme 2014 Practical Application section has six sets of coding exercise, 5 exercises in each set. We have requested 2.5 CE from NCRA for each set of heme coding exercises.

**CTR Prep - Cancer Registry Management**

The *Cancer Registry Management Principles & Practice for Hospitals and Central Registries 3rd Edition* textbook is one of the standard registry resources listed on the CTRexam.org website.

Material from this textbook is used in the closed book section of the CTR exam. CTR-eligible candidates may test themselves with 12 tests, 50 questions on each test. The material has been broken into three major topics:

1) Planning & Design of Registries and Informatics (4 tests)
2) Operations (4 tests)
3) Standard Setters, Central and Other Registries, and Uses of Registry Data (4 tests)

The CTR Prep series do not qualify for CE hours. The purpose of this material is to assist non-credentialed registrars and students in preparing for the CTR exam.
TRAK Officers for the 2014-2015 Term

In November 2013, the TRAK Nominating Committee members sent out ballots to the TRAK membership. Congratulations to Jenna Feddersen, CTR, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, as our new TRAK President and Lisa Bass, CTR, Alaska Regional Hospital, as our new TRAK Vice President.

The TRAK Nominating Committee would like to thank the other nominees who ran for office and to thank the outgoing officers who did a great job for the past two years.

Here is how you can contact your new TRAK Officers for 2014-2015

Jenna Feddersen, CTR, TRAK President
Lisa Bass, CTR, TRAK Vice President
jenna.feddersen@bannerhealth.com
lisa.bass@hcahealthcare.com
907-458-5458
907-264-1627

Evelyn Honeycutt, CTR, TRAK Secretary/Treasurer
evelyn.honeycutt@alaska.gov
907-269-8071

2014 TRAK Educational Conference

When: April 14-15, 2014 (Monday and Tuesday) 8:00am – 5:00pm
Where: Providence Cancer Center ~ Media Center Room U2281
2851 Piper Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Registration: $50.00 for both days. Must register by March 14th to receive bound educational materials and welcome gifts. Lunch on your own for both days, break snacks will be provided.
TRAK CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Jim Hofferkamp, BA, CTR – NAACCR Education Trainer

(Please bring your 7th Edition AJCC Staging Manual and Summary Stage 2000 manual)

- Comparing and Contrasting Collaborative Stage and AJCC Staging
- Staging Breast Cases: Presentation and Case Scenarios
- Staging Lung Cases: Presentation and Case Scenarios
- Staging Prostate Cases: Presentation and Case Scenarios
- Staging Lymphoma: Presentation and Case Scenarios
- Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Database and Manual: Presentation and Case Scenarios

Lymus Capehart – Apprenticeship and Training Representative, US Dept of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship

- Registered Apprenticeship – Blueprint for Success (Tumor Registrar),

Julia Thorsness – State of Alaska, Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion, Comprehensive Cancer Program.

- “Your Data in the Real World: how cancer data is used to improve life for Alaskans”

Tumor Registrars of Alaska (TRAK) annual meeting – President: Jenna Feddersen, CTR and Vice President: Lisa Bass, CTR.

2013 TRAK EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Please bring any questions you may have for Jim and we have scheduled two questions and answer sessions during the conference.

Also, please note that our TRAK meeting will be held during the TRAK Conference so bring any topics to discuss for the meeting.

The final TRAK Conference agenda was sent attached with this newsletter.