



REGISTRAR PIP

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COVID-19 Data Collection

The SEER Program has issued requirements for the collection of COVID-19 data. The full requirements are available from SEER website (<https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/covid-19/>). This article includes a summary of reasons for the data collection.

Also, for abstracting convenience, we created a formatted listing of the text documentation for use in copying/pasting into the appropriate text field in the abstracting software.

Why are we doing it?

- To identify the impact on cancer patients. Incidence of COVID-19 in cancer patients has been reported to be higher than in the general population. In addition, recent studies have shown patients with cancer had higher observed death rates.
- Collecting the information in the abstract will provide more detail than what might be available via linkages with the Infectious Disease databases as it relates directly to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- To record impact on usual cancer treatment. Treatment may be delayed or changed in order to decrease the risk of infection of COVID-19 or because of infection. The COVID-19 pandemic has observable and potentially long-lasting effects on cancer outcomes; thus, it is imperative to collect modifications to treatment for both incident and prevalent cases at the population-level.

Why use the Text fields?

- The standard NAACCR Text fields are being used to collect the COVID-related information because they are readily available and already part of the standard NAACCR abstract record.
- Natural language processing (NLP) will be used to extract the COVID-19 information from the text fields. It will be imperative that the text is formatted exactly as described in the instructions to make the NLP process most effective.
- We recommended that you copy/paste the phrases from the formatted listing.

What patient population is most likely to have some COVID information?

- Dx Year 2020 patients
- Diagnosis Year 2019 patients receiving first course of treatment in 2020. While the instructions indicate that COVID-19 information should be collected for cases diagnosed January 1st, 2020 or later, you may also wish to collect this information for cases diagnosed prior who have had treatment delays or changes in 2020.

Is it required?

- YES. You are required to collect the COVID-19 information on SEER region cases that are being completed 7/1/2020 and later.
- You are not required to collect on cases that were completed prior to 7/1/2020.
- You are not required to collect when no COVID-19 testing information/results are available or when the patient's cancer diagnosis and treatment were not documented to have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, whether at the facility level or patient level.



Process Improvement Pointers • Feedback/Questions to Registrar-PIP@FredHutch.org

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Questions?

- If you have questions about a specific case scenario, please contact me, Tiffany Janes, tjanes@fredhutch.org, 206-667-7902 (message only). If I cannot answer your question immediately, I will contact SEER to get clarification.
- As COVID-19 data collection proceeds, we will provide periodic updates and additional guidance on collection. The instructions provided by SEER are the initial data collection instructions and may be updated as collection proceeds and questions arise.

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients and has also impacted the staffing and/or assignments at hospital registries. We appreciate your efforts in providing this added detail to applicable cases as you encounter them.

