



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICES  
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[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

SHEREEF M. ELNAHAL, MD, MBA  
Commissioner

August 17, 2018

Dear Registrar:

We are writing to update you on New Jersey State Cancer Registry (NJSCR) reporting requirements for cancers diagnosed January 1, 2018 or later. N.J.A.C. 8:57A requires health care facilities to report all cases of cancer to the NJSCR within 6 months of first contact. While the recent changes to the 2018 data standards are necessary to keep cancer registry data in line with current clinical practice, we recognize that these changes may increase the time required for abstracting. We are also aware that due to delays in the 2018 data standards, hospital vendor software to abstract 2018 cases will not be available until the fall of 2018; and, that this may result in delays in submitting completed abstracts to the NJSCR.

Although this is an exceptionally challenging year, the collection of accurate, complete and valid information is of paramount importance, and we remain committed to ensuring the timely availability of data for cancer surveillance and for use by researchers, health care facility administrators, and other public health professionals. We are monitoring progress in implementation of the 2018 data standards and subsequent vendor software development and release with our cancer registry partners at the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Commission on Cancer (CoC); and, will assess potential changes in reporting deadlines once we have more definitive information. It was brought to our attention that other hospital registries have started to consider temporarily dedicating additional resources in order to avoid delays in abstracting 2018 cases once the updated software is available. Recognizing that each facility is different, we would encourage all facilities to evaluate their needs and potential gaps in resources to avoid delays in meeting abstracting deadlines.

In recognition of the 2018 implementation delays, the NJSCR is not currently enforcing late reporting penalties for patients diagnosed in 2018. Once your registry software has been updated, we will be requesting formal plans from each facility for submitting 2018 cases in a timely manner.

It is recommended that you share this letter with your management and/or hospital administration as appropriate.

Additional information and resources for 2018 reporting can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/health/ces/reporting-entities/njscr/>. Please contact your NJSCR hospital representative if you have any questions regarding 2018 case reporting requirements and deadlines.

Sincerely,

  
Antoinette M. Stroup, PhD  
Director  
New Jersey State Cancer Registry

  
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