



Quality Control Unit

Data Alert – Registrar 2021-01

Collection of COVID-19 Information in Text

It is important the CCR is able to capture COVID-19 information on cancer patients. Since this information falls outside of the normal structured data capture at this time, the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (**SEER**) has developed specific-abstracting instructions allowing for the option of utilizing natural language processing to data mine the information from text fields. There are no coded fields to capture COVID-19 data for 2020 cases.

- Please follow the coding instructions provided by SEER (see link below) to capture COVID-19 information on cancer patients at your facility.
- These COVID-19 instructions apply to any case **abstracted** on or after June 1, 2020 which was *diagnosed* on or after January 1, 2020 or later.
 - Note: Registries will continue collecting COVID-related information for cases diagnosed in 2021.
- CCR does not expect registrars to go back and conduct additional abstracting work on cases already completed.

Abstracting Resources:

- [Technical guidance regarding implementation of COVID-19 data abstraction document:](#)
 - Additional [SEER COVID-19 Abstracting Resources](#) (direct links to each document below):
 - [PDF version of the SEER PowerPoint](#)
 - [YouTube of SEER COVID-19 Abstraction Guidance](#)
 - [PDF version of COVID-19 & SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#)
 - [YouTube of COVID-19 & SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#)
 - COVID-19 Q&A:
 - [Questions and answers regarding cases for COVID-19 text abstraction and with explanation, rationale, and examples.](#)

January 7, 2021