



Cancer Reporting in California

Appendix A

Patient Notification of Reportable Neoplasm

California Cancer Reporting System Standards, Volume I: Abstracting and Coding Procedures

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Appendix A: Patient Notification of Reportable Neoplasm

This appendix is intended to help hospitals and physicians notify their patients of reportable cancers and neoplasms.

Guideline:

- CCR suggests the following statement be used by hospitals and physicians in notifying their patients that cancer and other specific benign and borderline tumors are reportable entities:
 - California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is mandated under state law (Health and Safety Code, Section 103885) to gather information on the amount and type of cancer occurring throughout the state. Beginning January 1, 2001 and forward, diagnoses of borderline and benign primary intracranial and central nervous system (CNS) tumors are also reportable and Hematopoietic Diseases (see [SEER Hematopoietic Database](#) for reportable histologies). The purpose of the law is to help identify preventable causes of cancer and specific borderline and benign tumors.
 - For the system to be useful, it must obtain complete and accurate counts of all new cancers and reportable tumors that occur. Therefore, the law requires hospitals and physicians to notify the appropriate regional registry of each new case of cancer and reportable tumor.
 - The information collected is confidential under California Health and Safety Code Sections 100330 and 103885, Civil Code, Sections 56.05 and 1798, Government Code, Sections 6250-6265 and Federal Law PL 104-191. CDPH has more than 50 years' experience in handling confidential records. Laws, regulations and programmatic safeguards are in place throughout the system to assure that the identities of patients are not revealed. Some cancer patients may, however, be contacted later by CDPH or the regional cancer registries as part of their ongoing investigations into the causes of cancer.