



Florida Statewide Cancer Registry

Florida Cancer Data System



Florida Cancer Data System and the Florida Department of Health 2018 Cancer Reporting Deadline Announcement

The Florida Department of Health's Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS) has established a new deadline for reporting all reportable cancers diagnosed and/or treated in Florida during calendar year 2018. **The new deadline for reporting 2018 cancer cases is March 31, 2020.**

Reporting for 2018 cases is over 9 months behind schedule. The reasons for these delays are attributed to finalizing national data standards, multiple revisions to data layouts due to issues discovered, and making 2018-compliant vendor software available to registrars that will meet all of the new standards.

The FCDS has started to receive cases from a few facilities as they receive 2018 compliant software. Some vendors still do not have working field versions that are 2018 compliant as the national standards have changed as recently as this month.

The FCDS has been in regular contact with all cancer registry software vendors and has been informed that the remaining vendor updates are imminent. Some will still have minor issues – but, for the most part all vendors should have 2018-compliant software before the end of April.

In addition to the 9+ month abstracting delay, we recognize that there are impacts to each facility(s) productivity as abstractors learn how to apply new rules, adapt to new software, and learn to deal with the new abstracting complexities required at the national level and by the Commission on Cancer and the National Cancer Database.

It is vitally important that each abstractor take the necessary time to learn the new rules and to submit quality abstracts to the FCDS. We cannot afford to rush through the abstracting process and create a less than quality product. We do not want to fill the FCDS database with 'unknown' values or 'not available' information, when it is really a time-availability and data quality issue.

Additionally, as cases are abstracted it's important to report early and often in order to make sure the V18 format is meeting all requirements so as not to overwhelm yours' or the FCDS' staff with edits and quality assurance reviews. **In other words, please submit smaller batches more often.**

With this in mind, the FCDS is factoring this need for additional time to account for these delays, at least for this reporting year, to our deadline timeline in order to provide the necessary time for facilities to produce a quality product.

The FCDS deadline for abstracting and reporting all 2018 cases (ANY Class of Case and including all inpatient and ambulatory patient encounters 1/1/2018-12/31/2018) will be March 31, 2020.

The FCDS will be monitoring facility's submissions and will make a decision about future extensions to the deadline once we get a better understanding for how facilities are dealing with all of the new complexities. If it is determined this deadline cannot be met, please submit or e-mail a written plan to your field coordinator regarding when 2018 cases will be completed.

The FCDS has been notified that there will be no changes to reporting for the 2019 reporting year which will allow everyone to flow right into 2019 reporting once 2018 reporting is complete. We are hopeful that this will help facilities catch up.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. As stated earlier, it is vitally important for everyone to take the necessary time to learn the new requirements and to provide quality abstracts to the state.

These delays and changes in rules and standards has caused significant operations issues both for you and the FCDS. Remember we are all in this boat together and together we will work to navigate these uncharted waters. **Together we will get through this.**

Thank you for your support and patience, and continuing to submit complete, accurate, and timely data to the FCDS. It is greatly appreciated.