Quality Control and Quality Improvement
Getting all the data items abstracted is a big job, but there is more to the abstracting process than just coding and entering the data.

The data entered has to be reviewed for completeness and accuracy.

This first level of quality assessment begins as soon as the last item on the abstract is entered.
Data Quality Monitors

1. Computer Edits
2. Abstractor Visual Editing
3. FCDS Visual Review
4. FCDS On site Reabstracting Audits
5. New Abstractor Required Case Review
1. Computer Edits

Cancer registry software usually has built-in edit checks to alert the abstractor to errors.

Edits errors may be issued for the use of out-of-range code values or for the use illogical or disallowed codes.

For example:

- If sex = male, primary site cannot = C54.1, Endometrium.

Cases must pass all program edits before submission to FCDS.
Each completed case should be immediately reviewed by the abstractor to verify completeness and accuracy of the information captured.

The case can be reviewed on-screen or using a printed summary of the case.

Printed abstracts or case summaries work well for efficient mentor review of the abstractor’s work.
Verify these pieces of information:

- Demographics (DOB, MRN, SSN, sex, spelling of the name)
- Date of Diagnosis
- Sequence number
- Primary site, histology and behavior
- Laterality
- Does the text tell the story of this cancer – the diagnosis, staging and treatment? Does the case make sense? Does the text support the coded CS Stage items and the coded treatment modalities?
3. FCDS Visual Review

FCDS Quality Control staff visually reviews every 25th record submitted by each reporting facility.

Trained staff can detect inconsistent coding that electronic edit checks cannot identify.

This visual review can identify areas or concepts in which abstractors might need additional support and training.

Discrepancies identified during the FCDS visual review must be resolved by the reporting facilities.
The FCDS Quality Control staff periodically performs on-site review of medical records of cases previously submitted to FCDS.

Key data items are evaluated and any discrepancies between the auditor’s findings and the original abstract findings need to be reconciled at the reporting facility.

The purpose of these audits is to monitor the level of consistency in the interpretation of the data definitions, coding rules and guidelines, policies and procedures and to identify areas that may require further clarification.
In order to obtain an FCDS Abstractor Code, all new abstractors in the State of Florida, regardless of their CTR credentials, are required to submit to FCDS twenty-five paper abstracts (or printed copies of the vendor abstracts) from a variety of primary sites for review and approval.

The FCDS will make corrections and suggest resources to assist new abstractors in developing their skills.

Approved abstractors will be eligible to obtain an FCDS Abstractor Code.