



April 9, 2011

Dear Florida Medical Providers, Cancer Registrars and Disease Surveillance Professionals:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has initiated a new project to expand and enhance data collection within a set of Specialized Registries which are part of the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). The NPCR is a cancer surveillance system that collects standardized cancer data for 96% of the U.S. population and provides essential data and infrastructure for public health at local, state, and national levels.

Florida was one of the ten the NPCR-funded State cancer registries selected to participate in this project based on their history of high-quality data collection and implementable plans for data enhancement. The other states are: Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Texas. The States are diverse geographically, have different race and ethnicity distributions, and range from urban to rural. Research based on these data will have the potential to impact all cancer patients.

This project provides a unique opportunity to expand the current data collection to obtain detailed data on colorectal cancer, breast cancer, and chronic myeloid leukemia patients diagnosed in 2011. The objective of this data collection effort is to provide researchers with a de-identified dataset that will enable them to conduct comparative effectiveness research (CER). The dataset will be based on regularly collected cancer data, including patient characteristics, tumor characteristics, and type of treatment received, and will be expanded to additional data on biomarkers and systemic treatment regimens/drugs.

CER Questions To Be Addressed

CDC working together with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality identified four Comparative Effectiveness Research questions to address through this data collection effort:

1. Are colorectal cancer patients tested for KRAS and are the results used appropriately to determine treatment? What impact does KRAS testing have on 2–3 year survival among colorectal cancer patients?
2. Are chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) patients being tested for the BCR-ABL2 gene and receiving appropriate treatment according to those results?
3. Are women with breast cancer being tested appropriately for HER2, progesterone receptor (PR), and estrogen receptor (ER) status and are they being treated appropriately?
4. Are rectal cancer patients receiving radiotherapy and what is the timing of radiotherapy? Are disparities apparent in the appropriate neo-adjuvant use of radiotherapy among these patients?

The Florida Department of Health will provide you complete details on the project in their upcoming Webinar series. I thank you in advance for your assistance and participation in this project which is critical to acquiring the data needed to address the key CER questions identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christie Eheman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Christie Eheman, PhD
Chief, Cancer Surveillance Branch
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention