

Register

A joint project of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer and Center and the Florida Department of Health

Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Volume 27, 2005

FCDS Educational Teleconferences

FCDS is responsible for maintaining a database of over five million records. We process approximately 152,000 cancer cases annually, in addition to those records received from the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and Vital Statistics.



With this huge volume of new cases received annually, it is not a simple task to ensure the quality of the data. One of the methods used to enhance our data is to run it through inter and intra-item edit checks before the cases are accepted into the FCDS database or “master file.” Some of these edits are straightforward and others are quite a challenge to understand, but ultimately, our goal is to use the edit checks to help identify abstracting deficiencies. Understanding the edits and edit messages can often be challenging for new and experienced abstractors. On March 15, 2005, FCDS presented a teleconference entitled “FCDS Sequence Edits: How they Affect On-line Uploads,” intended to help registrars understand the edits process and how to resolve them. The discussion focused primarily on sequence edits and their impact on data submission to FCDS post the implementation of the On-line Edits pro-

gram on January 18, 2005. Over sixty registrars tuned in to this first teleconference offered in 2005. One important take home message from the presentation was that FCDS implements edits that are required by standard setters like NPCR, the National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and NAACCR, the North America Association of Central Cancer Registry. FCDS plans to continue offering the teleconferences as an educational resource to help the registrars thoroughly understand the edits process. FCDS scheduled a second edits teleconference on Tuesday, April 26 at 2:00PM. For additional information, please visit our website at <http://fcds.med.miami.edu>. On behalf of FCDS, thank you to the teleconference participants this past March.

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NATIONAL CANCER REGISTRARS WEEK

APRIL 4-8, 2005

QUALITY CANCER DATA IS VITAL FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

Quality cancer data is central to the nation's cancer prevention and treatment efforts. Cancer Registrars are the professionals responsible for the collection and management of accurate and timely cancer patient information as part of the war on cancer. They serve as the primary link between patients and researchers and health professionals who need access to quality cancer data in order to provide for a healthier tomorrow. In acknowledgement of their vital role, National Cancer Registrars Week 2005 will be celebrated April 4-8 with the theme "*Cancer Registrars Working Today for a Healthier Tomorrow.*"

Cancer Registrars research patient charts and compile the patient-level data into registries that provide information for health care providers and health officials to use in monitoring and improving cancer treatment, conducting cancer research, and targeting cancer prevention programs. Data collected by Cancer Registrars is also submitted to the National Cancer Data Base, a nationwide oncology outcomes database maintained by the American College of Surgeons that provides the basis for many patterns of care studies.

"Cancer Registrars, as a profession, are diligent in their efforts to gather accurate information that can be used in cancer research aimed at creating healthier tomorrows for future generations," said NCRA President Amy Fremgen, PhD, CTR. "Because of the registrars' commitment to gathering and submitting high quality data to state and national registries, these registries are a rich source of data that provide comprehensive information on where and among whom cancers are occurring and how well different treatments are working."

In the course of compiling information on cancer patients, Cancer Registrars also reach out to other health care professionals such as those in radiation oncology, medical oncology, and urology departments and those at other facilities to ensure the data's comprehensiveness. "In the process of connecting with peers and colleagues,

we promote a strong network and sense of teamwork among the various care providers and institutions," said Fremgen.

In the rapidly evolving fields of cancer research and treatment, Cancer Registrars are required to stay on top of the latest information on new treatment protocols and ongoing clinical studies. Cancer Registrars use both a strong mentoring network and formal continuing education programs to remain up-to-date. Cancer Registry degree programs are also available throughout the country.

The vast majority of Cancer Registrars work in hospital registries while other Cancer Registrars may work at state or federal level registries. In addition to gathering and analyzing data, many Cancer Registrars also coordinate cancer related community outreach events, including cancer screenings.

"Cancer Registrars are eager to spread the word about the role they play in cancer research, prevention, and treatment. They deserve to be recognized and acknowledged for the steady, day-to-day work they do to ensure that doctors and nurses treating patients and researchers working towards a cure have the quality data they need," said Fremgen. "National Cancer Registrars Week provides those opportunities."

Press Release - March 6, 2005 - www.ncra-usa.org



FCDS WISHES TO CONGRATULATE ALL THE FLORIDA CANCER REGISTRARS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

New Name for the UM School of Medicine

The University of Miami Medical School received an historic \$100 million dollar gift from the Leonard Miller family. In recognition of the largest gift ever received the University of Miami, named the School of Medicine the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine.

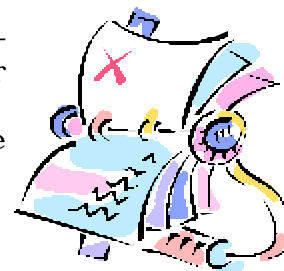
Please note this change is only in the Name. Address information remains the same:

REGULAR MAILING ADDRESS:

Florida Cancer Data System
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
P.O. Box 016960 (D4-11)
Miami, Florida 33101

COURIER ADDRESS: (FEDEX, AIRBORNE, UPS, ETC.)

Florida Cancer Data System
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
1550 NW 10 Avenue, Fox Bldg, Room 410
Miami, Florida 33136



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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FCDS TELECONFERENCE

- **Topic:** FCDS Collaborative Staging Edits
- **Date:** Tuesday, April 26th, 2005
- **Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Dial-in number:** 877-807-5706
- **Participant Code:** 465216

NCRA 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- “Explore the Gateway to Information, Education and all that Jazz”*
- **Dates:** April 10 – 13, 2005
 - **Location:** Sheraton New Orleans, LA
 - **Website:** <http://www.ncra-usa.org/conference>

NAACCR 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

- “A New Season for Cancer Surveillance”*
- **Dates:** June 7—9, 2005
 - **Location:** Cambridge, Massachusetts
 - **Website:** <http://www.naacr.org>

FCRA ANNUAL MEETING

- **Dates:** July 26—27, 2004
- **Location:** Marriott - West Palm Beach, FL
- **Website:** www.fcra.org

FCDS ANNUAL MEETING - 25TH YEAR

- **Dates:** July 28—29, 2004
- **Location:** Marriott - West Palm Beach, FL
- **Website:** <http://fcds.med.miami.edu>

CTR EXAM INFORMATION

2005 Exam

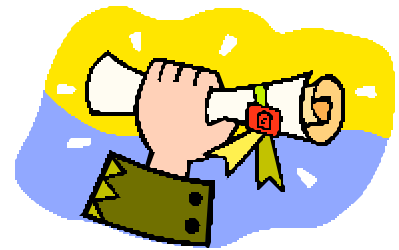
- **Application Deadline:** July 31, 2005
- **Testing Begins:** September 10, 2005
- **Testing Ends:** September 24, 2005

Exam Application Fees:

- NCRA Members: \$200 US
- All other candidates: \$275 US

The Certification Examination will be administered during two 2-week testing periods on a daily basis, Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays, at *LaserGrade Computer Testing Inc.*'s computer-based testing facilities managed by Professional Testing Corporation. *For additional information visit the NCRA website at: www.ncra-usa.org*

**Congratulations
to the new
CTR's in the
State of Florida:**



September, 2004

Patricia A. Atchley

- Boca Raton

Marichu F. Auffenberg

- Alachua

Anne Auguste

- N. Miami Beach

Cheryl L. Hillberry

- Ft Myers

David Lugo

- Miami

Nancy J. Payte

- Orlando

Jayne V. Preisinger

- Dania Beach

Susan Bonds Safarian

- Riverview

Jennifer D. Van Riper

- Lakeland

**Cancer Reporting
Completeness Report
As of March 1st, 2005**

**Calendar Year 2004
41% Actual
67% Expected**

Education and Training Modules



When visiting the FCDS website, (fcds.med.miami.edu) take advantage of our training modules. Simply click on the "Edu and Training" button on the left hand side and your in. The following are the modules available:

- ✧ International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O-3)
- ✧ Collaborative Staging Part 1
- ✧ Collaborative Staging Part 2
- ✧ Reporting Requirements for Intracranial and CNS Tumors
- ✧ Correct/delete single entry records
(for users of FCDS single Entry web page)
- ✧ Interactive Web-based edits

These web modules are slides + narration of FCDS training and education modules held at FCDS Annual Meetings or Abstractor training seminars.

Computer requirements:

- ⇒ You should have a way to hear sound from your computer (internal/external speakers.)
- ⇒ The Flash plugin is required.
- ⇒ Your screen resolution should be 800 by 600 pixels or higher.
- ⇒ A relatively fast internet connection is recommended.

UM Sylvester

FCDS

HEALTH

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"Happiness is a conscious choice,
not an automatic response."



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