

# ASCR news

Alabama Department of Public Health

## Director's Corner

*Greetings from the Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry!*



**Fall/Winter 2014**  
Volume 11, Issue 2

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### Completeness Rate for 2013 Data

Right before the Thanksgiving holiday, the ASCR submitted the annual Call for Data (2012 data) to the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). We appreciate that many of you have worked very hard and have overcome many difficult obstacles to submit your cases in a timely manner. However, the number of 2013 cases submitted to the ASCR is low. Currently, we are at a completeness rate of 80%. Our goal is to reach a completeness rate of 90% for 2013 cases by January 31, 2015, and 95% or above by November 30, 2015.



After the New Year's holiday, with the new follow-back coordinator Ms. Kandice Abernathy, the death clearance and path follow-back processes will resume again. Please keep the following processes in mind while you are working on 2014 data submission.

**2013 data submission** : If you identify any new 2013 cases, please abstract and submit these cases as soon as possible.

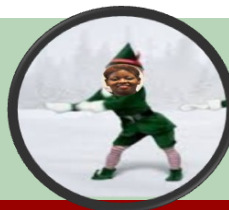
**2013 death and path follow-back**: Please respond to our follow-back letter, regardless if the cases are reportable or not. For tracking purposes, your responses are vital to the process. If the cases are reportable, please abstract and submit them as soon as possible.

### Cancer Reporting through Meaningful Use Stage 2

With the support from our Bureau of Information Technology and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the ASCR has made great progress in implementing the Meaningful Use Stage 2 program. We should start to receive live cancer data from providers soon. We are experiencing an increase in providers' participation in Stage 2 cancer reporting and expect more physicians to come onboard in the upcoming years.

*We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*





## UPCOMING WEBINARS

### Cullman County

The ASCR will host NAACCR webinars at the Cullman County Health Department from 9 a.m. to noon. \*Exact dates to be announced.

**December 18, 2014**— *AJCC Summary Staging*

**January\* 2015**— *Collecting Cancer Data: Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasms*

**February \* 2015**— *Using the Multiple Primary and Histology (MP/H) Coding Rules*

If you plan to attend, please contact Diane Hadley at [diane.hadley@adph.state.al.us](mailto:diane.hadley@adph.state.al.us) or 256-775-8970.

### Montgomery County

The ASCR will host live NAACCR webinars at the RSA Tower in Montgomery beginning at 1 p.m. in Conference room 1366.

**January 8, 2015** — *Collecting Cancer Data: Testis*

**February 5, 2015**— *Collecting Cancer Data: Uterus*

**March 5, 2015**— *Abstracting and Coding Boot Camp: Cancer Case Scenarios*

**April 2, 2015** — *Collecting Cancer Data: Stomach and Esophagus*

If you plan to attend, please contact Tara Freeman at [tara.freeman@adph.state.al.us](mailto:tara.freeman@adph.state.al.us) or 334-206-7035.

### Jefferson County

Princeton Baptist Medical Center will be hosting recorded NAACCR webinars.

**January 15, 2015** — *Using the Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules*

**February 19, 2015** — *Collecting Cancer Data: Testis*

**March 3, 2015** — *Collecting Cancer Data: Uterus*

Please contact Judy Lang at [judy.lang@bhsala.com](mailto:judy.lang@bhsala.com) for more information.

### Mobile County

The ASCR will host recorded NAACCR webinars at the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**January 26 2015** — 1. *Using the Multiple Primary and Histology Coding Rules* 2. *Collecting Cancer Data: Testis*

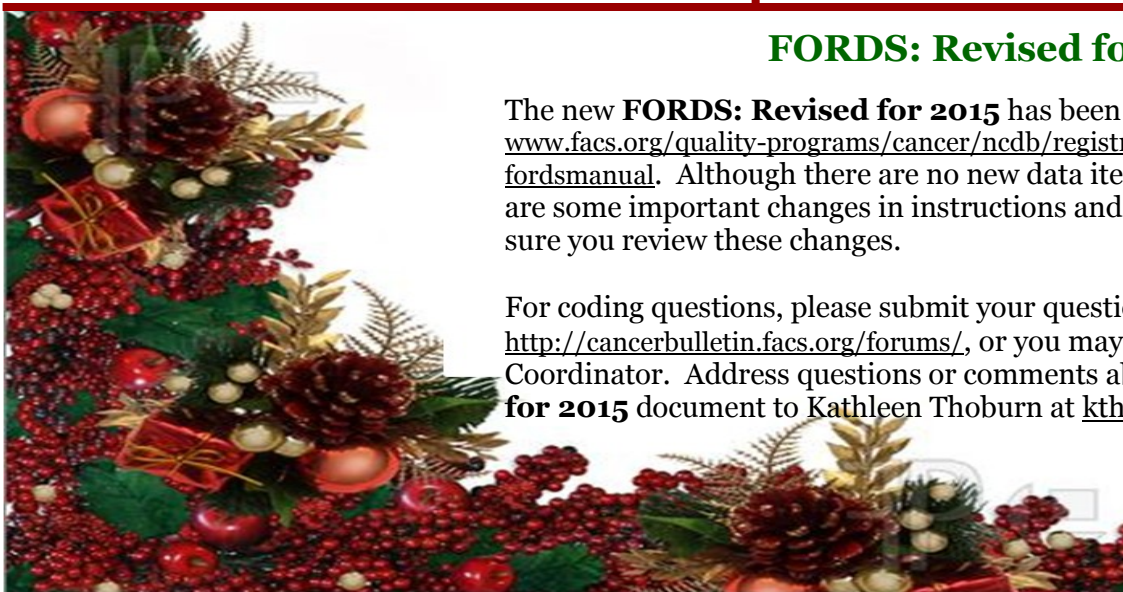
**March 15, 2015** — 1. *Collecting Cancer Data: Uterus* 2. *Abstracting and Coding Boot Camp: Cancer Case Scenarios*

If you plan to attend, please contact Mark Jackson at [mark.jackson2@adph.state.al.us](mailto:mark.jackson2@adph.state.al.us) or 251-341-6247.

### FORDS: Revised for 2015

The new **FORDS: Revised for 2015** has been posted at <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/ncdb/registrymanuals/cocmanuals/fordsmanual>. Although there are no new data items introduced for 2015, there are some important changes in instructions and code options. Please make sure you review these changes.

For coding questions, please submit your questions to the CANSWER Forum <http://cancerbulletin.facs.org/forums/>, or you may contact your assigned ASCR Coordinator. Address questions or comments about the **FORDS: Revised for 2015** document to Kathleen Thoburn at [kthoburn@facs.org](mailto:kthoburn@facs.org).





The ASCR has recently completed the annual Call for Data submissions to both the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). The ASCR submitted 25,231 cases for Alabama with the diagnosis year of 2012. This is the highest total the ASCR has ever submitted for a certification year. As such, the ASCR anticipates once again achieving Gold status with both NAACCR and NPCR for data quality and completeness.

We would never be able to achieve these goals without your reporting cases in a timely fashion and your participation in the death clearance follow-back, pathology follow-back, and the new Medicaid follow-back process. Thank you all so much for your hard work.

## Non-Hospital Reporting Sources @cancer



A huge thanks to all physician offices for your hard work and dedication to the Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry and assistance in meeting our goal to capture complete and accurate data. Please use the last few days of 2014 to review your case submission for the year and to make sure you have submitted each month. Also, if you or your colleague(s) will no longer serve as the contact person for your facility's Web Plus submission, please send an email to [crystal.jones2@adph.state.al.us](mailto:crystal.jones2@adph.state.al.us), so that we can obtain current contact information. I know it's a great challenge for everyone to submit cases in a timely manner. The ASCR acknowledges and appreciates your work very much.

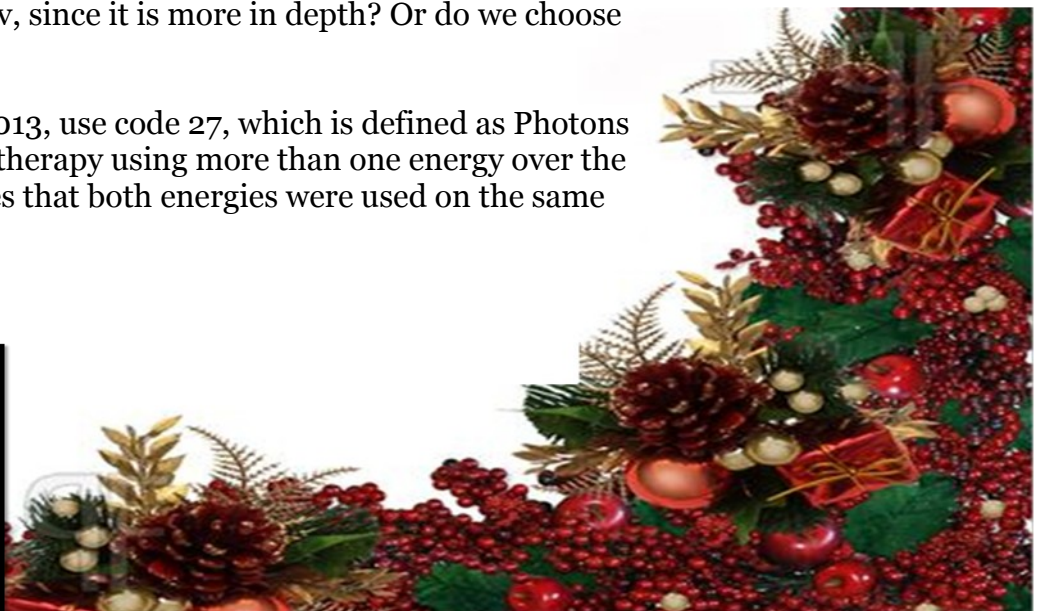
As we approach the Christmas holiday, I would like to encourage everyone to stay safe and drive responsibly.

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### Cancer Question Trivia

**Question:** If a patient received radiation treatment with 6mv and 18mv at the same time, do we choose the 18mv, since it is more in depth? Or do we choose mixed energies?

**Answer:** According to FORDS 2013, use code 27, which is defined as Photons (mixed energies): External beam therapy using more than one energy over the course of treatment. This assumes that both energies were used on the same site.





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The ASCR was established in 1995 by the Alabama Department of Public Health in response to state law (Act 95-275) that made cancer a reportable condition. Data collection began in January 1, 1996.

The ASCR is a member of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) which sets standards for completeness, timeliness, and data quality. Registries that meet the highest standards receive NAACCR Gold Certification. Alabama has achieved the highest NAACCR standards and received the Gold Certification since 2004.

The ASCR is a participant in the National Program for Cancer Registries (NPCR) that was established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1992 through the Federal Cancer Registry Amendment Act (Public Law 102-515).

