

RTR/VTR Research FAQs

What patient information (e.g., demographics, detailed disease data) is obtained by the Iowa Cancer Registry?

The Iowa Cancer Registry uses the SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2024 [SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2024 \(cancer.gov\)](https://seer.cancer.gov/coding/staging-manual-2024/). The manual lists patient and disease characteristics that – for the most part - are available for each new cancer diagnosis.

Can the Iowa Cancer Registry provide the cause of death?

No. The ICR can annotate 1) whether a patient is alive or deceased and 2) whether the patient died of cancer or not.

For specific cause of death information, an investigator must have a Research Agreement with the Iowa Dept of Health and Human Services (HHS). Research Agreement guidance is available from the HHS website <https://hhs.iowa.gov/initiatives/data-requests>.