

CAST A WIDE NET: CASEFINDING AND REPORTABILITY 101

Melissa Riddle, ODS-C
Iowa Cancer Registry
January 2025

1

Overview



Understand what casefinding is and why it is necessary



Learn where to find possible cases and determine reportability



Review examples of casefinding sources

2

2



What is Casefinding?

- A system for locating every patient who is diagnosed and/or treated with a reportable diagnosis
 - It's like casting a net far and wide to capture all reportable cancer cases

3

3

Casefinding List

- A casefinding list is **NOT** the same as a reportable list
 - Casefinding list:
 - Intended for searching a variety of sources as to not miss any reportable solid tumor, hematopoietic, benign/borderline brain cases
 - A screening tool for prospective cases and identify cases for inclusion in the registry
 - Different types: disease index, discharge list, E-path, radiology/treatment lists
 - Reportable list:
 - Reportable diseases that are required to be collected and reported
 - Exceptions to reporting requirements – what is not reportable
 - SEER is the standard setter in Iowa

4

4

How is Casefinding Performed?

- **Active:**
 - Cancer registry staff retrieve all source documents
 - Staff screen the documents for reportable cases
 - More thorough and accurate
- **Passive:**
 - Other departments notify the registry of potential reportable cases
 - Not as accurate as active
 - Non-registry staff are not as familiar with reporting criteria and terminology

5

5

How is Casefinding Performed?

- **Automated:**
 - Certified EHR/EMR technology with the ability to identify reportable case and treatment to the provider and facilitate electronic reporting either automatically or upon verification
 - Rapid Case Ascertainment
 - Electronic download process of eligible cancer cases into registry software
 - Supplemental review of source documents by staff
 - Natural Language Processing (NLP)
 - Application of linguistics and computer science to extract and interpret linguistic information from health care documents (path report, imaging, treatment summaries, clinical notes)

6

6

Casefinding Source Documents

- **Pathology reports/E-path (HL7)**
 - Lab reports: cytology, bone marrow, autopsy
 - Typically, 90% of all cancers are histologically confirmed
 - Pathology – resected specimens (tissue) microscopically examined
 - Cytology – microscopic exam of cells in body fluids from aspirations, washings, scrapings, and smears

7

7

Pathology Casefinding

- **Daily or Weekly review recommended**
- Complete path casefinding involves a review of all reports both positive and negative
 - A computerized list of reportable diagnoses can decrease the number of pathology reports for visual review
- Both manual and computerized review should have a tracking system to ensure all reports were evaluated

8

8

ICD Coding

- **International Classification of Disease (ICD)**
 - Method of classifying diseases, injuries, and causes of death
 - ICD-10 first published by WHO in 1992
 - ICD-10-CM based on this and adopted by US in 1999 for cause of death only and in 2015 for morbidity purposes
 - United States is the only country using ICD-10-CM (clinical modification)
 - Billing purposes
 - ICD-10-PCS – procedure coding

9

9

ICD Coding

- **ICD-O (Oncology)**
 - Dual classification with coding systems for both topography and morphology
 - Standard tool for coding diagnoses of neoplasms by cancer registrars
 - Currently using ICD-O-3 (3rd ed.)
 - Used since 2001
 - Histology codes have been undergoing updates since 2018
 - ICD-O-3.2 histology updates based WHO Blue Books 5th ed.

10

10

Casefinding Source Documents

- **Medical records disease index (DI)**
 - ICD-10-CM codes run for reportable diseases
 - Inpatient & Outpatient visits
 - Use the most current list of codes for the reporting year
 - Most large CoC accredited facilities review the list **monthly**
 - Smaller facilities may review the list quarterly or annually
 - Dependent upon time availability and staffing
 - Is patient in the registry with the coded cancer?
 - Is patient in the registry as a suspense case?
 - Not in the registry?
 - Review medical record to determine if reportable

11

11



Disease Index Casefinding

- **SEER Casefinding List –**
<https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/casefinding/>
 - **Comprehensive List –**
 - required
 - **Supplemental List –**
 - As time allows

12

12

Disease Index Casefinding

- **Automated DI casefinding**
 - Hospital's EMR/coding system extracts possible reportable cases and places these into the registry software suspense file
 - A manual DI should be run at the end of the reporting year to ensure all cases were either reported or clearly documented as non-reportable

13

13

Casefinding Source Documents

- **Radiation Therapy and Medical Oncology** logs
 - Depending on size of facility the review should be performed periodically
 - Helps ensure complete ascertainment of all cases
 - It can also be a good system for collecting follow up
 - Request new patients

14

14

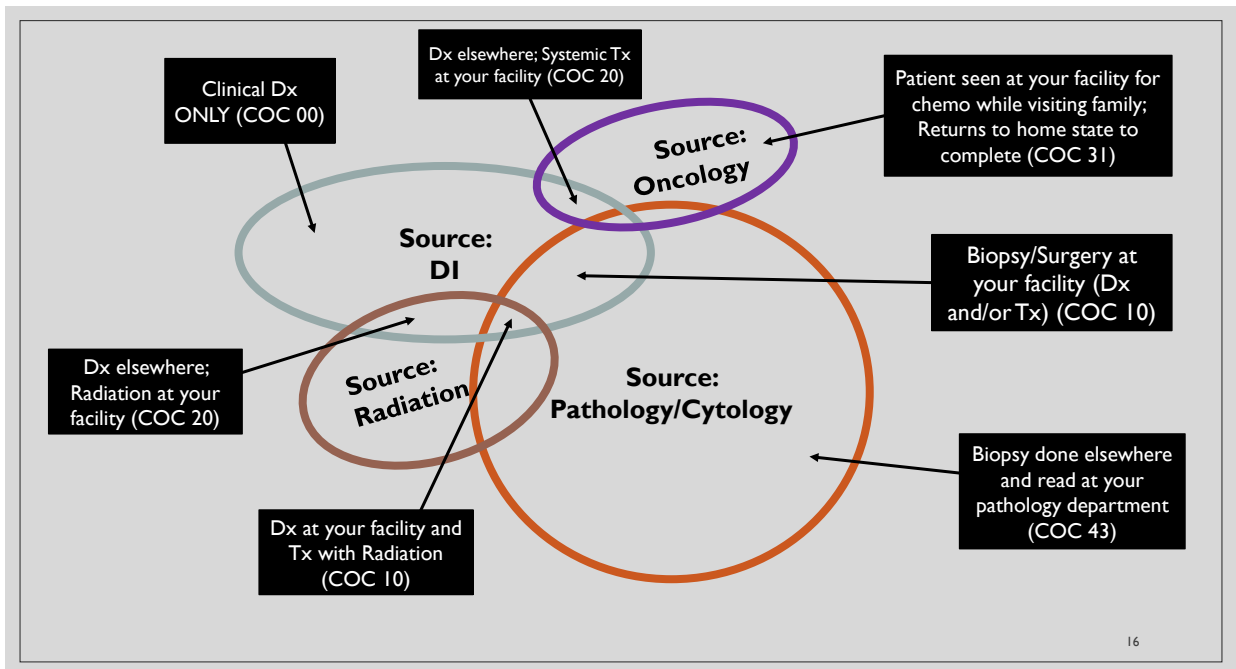
Casefinding Source Documents

◦ List from ICR

- Information from disease index and pathology report review
 - AFL – Abstract Facility Lead
- Organize your list and review:
 1. No patient
 - Patient not in ICR database
 2. No tumor
 - Patient is in the ICR database, but the tumor is not
 3. No facility
 - Patient and tumor is in the database, but not from your facility

15

15



16

16

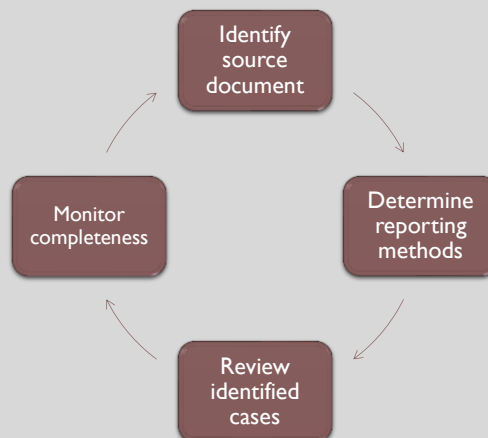
Casefinding Process

- List of patients found from the source documents (disease index, e-path, ICR list etc.)
- Review the patient's information in the EMR
 - Rad/Med Onc consults; Imaging; Pathology; Discharge summaries; Op reports
- Ask the following....
 - Does the information confirm a reportable disease?
 - Does the patient have active disease?
 - Is the patient receiving treatment for a reportable disease?
 - If 'yes' to any of the above, then you have a reportable case

17

17

Casefinding Cycle



18

18



NEW?
RECURRENT?
PROGRESSION?

19

19

Make the Determination

- Always check the patient against the current registry database **BEFORE** abstracting
 - Is the patient in the database?
 - **Yes**
 - Is it for the same tumor (site/histology)?
 - Is it metastatic from the primary in the database?
 - Update information in the abstract
 - **No**
 - This is a new case and should be abstracted

Use the Solid
Tumor Rules or
Heme/Lymph
Manual Multiple
Primary rules

20

20



Reportability

- Meets the criteria for inclusion in a registry
- Reportable cases are those that the registry is required to collect and report
- A “Reportable List” includes all diagnoses to be reported by the registry to NCI SEER and/or CoC
 - Must follow both for Iowa

21

21

Reportable List - SEER

https://seer.cancer.gov/manuals/2024/SPCSM_2024_MainDoc.pdf

◦ **Malignant histologies**

- Behavior codes /2 and /3 (in situ and invasive)
- Exceptions:
 - Skin primary (C440-C449) – SCC and Basal cell CA
 - 8000-8005; 8010-8046; 8050-8084; 8077; 8090-8110
 - Any in situ behavior of cervix (C530-C539)
 - PIN III
 - Colon atypical hyperplasia
 - High grade dysplasia colorectal sites

◦ **Non-Malignant histologies** (benign/borderline) – 2004+

- Primary intracranial and CNS tumors (C700-C709; C710-C719; C720-C729; C751-C753)
- Behavior codes /0 or /1

SEER Appendix E
Reportable/Non-reportable Examples:
https://seer.cancer.gov/manuals/2024/SPCSM_2024_Appendix_E.pdf

22

22

Reportable List - CoC

<https://www.facs.org/media/bfxlv0eu/store-manual-2024.pdf>

- **Malignancies with behavior /2 or /3** (in-situ and invasive)
 - Exceptions:
 - Skin primaries (C44x) and histology = 8000-8110
 - In situ of cervix (C53x)
 - **LCIS of breast (C50x)**
 - **Intraepithelial neoplasia grade III (8072/2)**
 - Cervix, prostate, **vulva, vagina, anus**, larynx
 - Squamous intraepithelial neoplasia
 - Colon atypical hyperplasia
 - High grade dysplasia colorectal sites
- **Non-Malignant histologies** (benign/borderline) – 2004+
 - Primary intracranial and CNS tumors (C700-C709; C710-C719; C720-C729; C751-C753)
 - Behavior codes /0 or /1



23

23

Ambiguous Terms - SEER

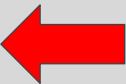
- **Reportable Terms**
 - Apparent(ly)
 - Appears
 - Comparable with
 - Compatible with
 - Consistent with
 - Favor(s)(ed)
 - Malignant appearing
 - Most likely
 - Presumed
 - Probable
 - Suspect(ed)
 - Suspicious (for)
 - Typical (of)
- **Intracranial or CNS Neoplasms ONLY:**
 - **Reportable terms –**
 - Neoplasm
 - Tumor
 - **NOT reportable terms –**
 - Mass
 - Lesion

Do **not** abstract a case based **ONLY** on suspicious cytology. Follow back on cytology diagnoses using ambiguous terms. Accession the case when a reportable diagnosis is confirmed later (date of diagnosis is date of suspicious cytology)

24

24

Class of Case

- For CoC facilities cases are assigned a Class of Case
 - Relationship between the facility and patient
 - **Analytic cases** (class of case 00-22)
 - Report to NCDB and ICR
 - **Nonanalytic cases** (class of case 30-99)
 - Not required to be abstracted for CoC
 - **ARE** required to be abstracted and submitted to ICR 
 - SEER reportability takes precedence

25

25

Non-analytic Class of Case

Code	Label	Description	Report to ICR
30	Diagnosis & 1 st course treatment elsewhere ; Seen in-person at reporting facility	Reporting facility participated in diagnostic work up (consult only; treatment plan only; staging workup after diagnosis elsewhere)	Yes
31		Diagnosis & Treatment elsewhere; Reporting facility provided in-transit care or facilitated treatment (stent placement)	Yes
32		Diagnosis & Treatment elsewhere; Patient seen at reporting facility with disease recurrence or persistence (<u>active disease</u>)	Yes
33		Diagnosis & Treatment elsewhere; Patient has disease history only (<u>no active dz</u>)	No
34	Case not required by CoC (i.e. VIN 3, AIN 3, VAIN 3, etc.); Seen in-person at reporting facility	Diagnosis <u>and</u> all/part 1 st course treatment at reporting facility	Possible
36		Diagnosis elsewhere <u>and</u> all/part 1 st course treatment at reporting facility	Possible

26

26

Non-analytic Class of Case

Code	Label	Description	Report to ICR
35	Diagnosed before facility's reference date ; Seen in-person at reporting facility	Diagnosis and all/part 1 st course treatment at reporting facility	Yes
37		Diagnosis elsewhere and all/part 1 st course treatment at reporting facility	Yes
38	Seen in-person at reporting facility	Diagnosed at autopsy at the reporting facility and cancer <u>not suspected prior to death</u>	Yes
42	Not seen in-person at reporting facility	Nonstaff physician or non-CoC accredited clinical or other facility abstract by reporting facility for diagnosis and/or treatment (contract/agreement between facilities)	Yes
99		Unknown relationship to facility	Yes

27

27



Reportability

- **Residency** (IA resident or out of state)
 - Was the patient diagnosed and/or treated in an Iowa facility?
 - **Yes** – report the case
 - Was the patient seen in an Iowa facility with active disease?
 - **Yes** – report the case
 - Was the patient seen in an Iowa facility with a history of a reportable cancer?
 - Is there active disease?
 - **No** – don't report the case

28

28

Reportability

◦ Reference Date

- Iowa Cancer Registry: 1/1/1973
 - Hospitals with approved cancer programs will have their own reference date
 - Even if diagnosed/treated prior to facility reference date **report the case**
 - **Class of Case 35 or 37**
 - *Example:* Facility A has reference date of 1/1/2023. Patient is seen at Facility A in 2022 for breast cancer diagnosed elsewhere. Facility A administers first course treatment in 2022. Abstract the case and submit to ICR (*class of case 37*)

29

29

Reportability

Did your facility diagnose the reportable cancer?

- **Yes** – Report the case

Is the patient receiving treatment at your facility for a reportable cancer?

- **Yes** – Report the case

Does the patient have active disease?

- **Yes** – Report the case

30

30

CASE EXAMPLES

31

31

Example 1

- 1/2/24 CT Chest: large abnormal appearing mass in RUL, 1.3cm, consistent with malignancy.
- Patient never returns to the facility

Is this case reportable?

Yes, the reporting facility diagnosed the case
 Ambiguous term: consistent with malignancy
 Makes this a reportable case without further information

Source:
 SPCSM, page 18
 Ambiguous
 Terms for
 Reportability

32

32

Example 2

- Patient has had an abnormal mass left calf, here for biopsy
- 3/4/24 Left calf muscle, biopsy: atypical fibroxanthoma (superficial malignant fibrous histiocytoma)
- Only visit at facility

Should this case be reported?

Yes, the information in parentheses on biopsy provides more detail and confirms a reportable malignancy

Malignant Fibrous Histiocytoma: 8830/3

Sources:

1. ICD-O-3.2 Annotated list: <https://www.naaccr.org/icdo3/>
2. SPCSM, page 14

33

33

Example 3

Facility A

- 5/16/24 Screening mammogram: abnormal mass in the 2:00 position left breast
- 5/22/24 Left breast ultrasound: suspicious mass, 0.9cm, 2:00 position
- 5/29/24 Left breast, 2:00, biopsy: atypical ductal hyperplasia

Facility A:
No diagnosis
or treatment

Facility B

- 6/18/24 Patient with known atypical ductal hyperplastic mass in left breast. Patient is concerned because mass is increasing in size.
- 6/18/24 Left breast, lumpectomy: Ductal carcinoma in situ, 0.5cm. No invasive portion noted.

Which facility should report the case?

Facility B:
Diagnosis and part of 1st course
treatment

34

34

Example 4

8/9/24 Screening mammogram: abnormal microcalcifications in the 9:30 area right breast and mass noted at 10:00 right breast; left breast normal. BIRADS 5: highly suggestive of malignancy

Should this case be reported?

No, based on this information alone we don't have a diagnosis of cancer.

BIRADS 4, 4A, 4B, 4C, or 5 information alone are not diagnostic (**SEER Appendix E2**)

https://seer.cancer.gov/manuals/2024/SPCSM_2024_Appendix_E.pdf

35

35

Example 5

- 10/11/24 colonoscopy: abnormal appearing mass in rectum
 - Rectal biopsy: very atypical hyperplasia concern for malignancy
 - Rectal biopsy consult: no findings of malignancy
- 11/1/24 Radiation Oncology: per MRI patient has a rectal cancer abutting mesorectal fat, involved lymph nodes; recent biopsy concerning for malignancy; plan: neoadjuvant radiation
 - 11/5/24 neoadjuvant radiation began

Should this case be reported?

Yes, the patient diagnosed with rectal cancer per Rad Onc and received treatment

SPCSM, Reportability List/Instructions, pages 13-22

36

36

Resources

- SEER Casefinding Lists:
<https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/casefinding/>
- SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual (SPCSM) – pages 13-22
 - Reportability: <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/codingmanuals/>
 - Reportable/Non-reportable examples:
https://seer.cancer.gov/manuals/2024/SPCSM_2024_Appendix_E.pdf
- STORE Manual 2024 (CoC facilities)
<https://www.facs.org/media/bfxlv0eu/store-manual-2024.pdf>
- Comparison of Reportable Cancers: CoC, SEER, NPCR, CCCR
<https://apps.naaccr.org/data-dictionary/data-dictionary/version=25/chapter-view/standards-for-tumor-inclusion-and-reportability/comparison-of-reportable-cancers-coc-seer-npcr-and-cccr/>

37

37

Summary

- Review all your casefinding sources
- Determine if you should report the case
- SEER instructions take precedence over CoC
 - Don't base reportability solely by class of case
- Active disease = reportable



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

38



Questions?

Contact Information:

Melissa Riddle, ODS-C

Education/Training

melissa-riddle@uiowa.edu

39