

Good afternoon,

Earlier this month, the ACR distributed instructions to hospitals on converting to the latest version of Collaborative Staging. Before circulating the instructions, we converted a database to version 01.04.01 and tested the updates to make sure that we did not receive any unexpected error messages. There were none, and we asked hospitals to begin using Site-Specific Factor 1 for gastric cancers and Site-Specific Factor 2 for colon and rectum cancers effective with cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2008. We have since been notified by registrars at a couple of facilities that they received error messages when they used code “888” for these items for cases diagnosed prior to 2008.

Please begin using the new codes for these items as soon as you convert and begin inputting new cases. Additionally, after you complete the conversion process, please notify Kara Locketti by phone (602-542-7592) or email ([locketk@azdhs.gov](mailto:locketk@azdhs.gov)) about the month/year you are abstracting when you converted your database. This additional piece of information is requested so that the ACR can make valid stage comparisons when doing data analyses.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions please contact me.

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