

Arizona Department of Health Services Implements Employee Furloughs

The Arizona Department of Health Services has instituted a mandatory employee furlough program in response to the budget reduction bills passed by the legislature and signed by the governor in late January.

All ADHS employees must take 10 unpaid days off before the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). Furlough days are staggered to ensure coverage during business days.

The ACR wishes to assure the registry community that there will be no interruption in services during this period.

Introductory Abstracting Workshop, March 23 - March 26

The ACR will host a workshop for beginning registrars from March 23rd through March 26th at the Arizona Department of Health Services. Topics include:

- ◆ Introduction to the Arizona Cancer Registry
- ◆ Determining Case Reportability
- ◆ Casefinding Methods
- ◆ Abstracting Fundamentals
- ◆ Using Coding Manuals & Reference Materials
- ◆ Collaborative Staging
- ◆ Multiple Primary & Histology Rules
- ◆ Hands-on Coding & Abstracting

This workshop is designed for individuals with minimal registry experience. Due to space restrictions, enrollment will be limited to eight (8) participants. For more information, or to RSVP, Please contact Kara Locketti (602-542-7592 or locketk@azdhs.gov) by Friday, March 6th.

Cancer Staging Webinar: March 5th

The next webinar is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th, from noon until 3 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Health Services. “Cancer Staging In-Depth” will cover staging theory and practice for AJCC, pediatric, and Collaborative Staging systems.

Shannon Vann and Jim Hofferkamp of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries will host the session. Please RSVP with Kara Locketti (602-542-7592 or locketk@azdhs.gov) by Friday, February 27th.

Reminder: Site-Coding Meningiomas

ACR staff members have been encountering numerous primary site miscodings for meningioma cases. Meningiomas by definition arise in the cerebral or spinal meninges, which are a series of three protective membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. The meninges are not comprised of nervous tissue, and so cannot be coded to brain or spinal cord.

Always code meningiomas to sites C70.0 (Cerebral/cranial meninges); C70.1 (Spinal meninges) or C70.9 (Meninges, NOS), even if the tumor is described as being in the spinal cord or in a subsite of the brain.

Coding meningioma histologies to a brain or spinal cord site will result in a Site & Morphology conflict error.