Arizona Cancer Registry
Information for Clinics – General Overview

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Clinics are required to report cases of cancers (all reportable conditions noted below) when they diagnose and/or treat cancer in a patient and the patient is not referred to a hospital.

***What defines a Clinic? (*Per A.A.C. Title 9. Health Services, Chapter 4, Article 4. Cancer Registry)**
Not physically connected to or affiliated with a hospital, where a physician, doctor of naturopathic medicine, dentist, or registered nurse practitioner provides cancer diagnosis, cancer treatment, or both, and that is:

- Outpatient treatment center
- Outpatient surgical center
- Outpatient radiation treatment center

Which cases should Clinics report?

- Only report those cases that are not referred to a hospital.
- Reportable Conditions: **Cancers -** All malignant (including in situ) tumors/neoplasms (solid) or hematopoietic (blood)
  Benign tumors of the central nervous system (meninges, brain, spinal cord, cranial nerves), and other parts of the central nervous system, craniopharyngeal duct, pineal gland, and pituitary gland
- Exceptions to reporting: Do not report skin cancers (e.g., Basal cell/Squamous cell), but do report melanomas. Do not report carcinoma in situ of the cervix.

What if the pathology reports contain ambiguous terms?
Sometimes physicians use ambiguous words to describe cancer on reports. The following ambiguous terms are used as guidance to determine if the case should be reported. If any of these terms are used we would consider it diagnostic of cancer. Example - if the pathology report stated "probable cancer" or "suspected cancer" these cases would be reported.

Only for Cancers:

◦ Apparent(ly)	◦ Consistent with	◦ Presumed	◦ Typical of
◦ Appears	◦ Favors	◦ Probable	
◦ Comparable with	◦ Malignant appearing	◦ Suspect(ed)	
◦ Compatible with	◦ Most Likely	◦ Suspicious (for)	

Only for benign tumors of the central nervous system, craniopharyngeal duct, pineal gland, and pituitary gland:

- Neoplasm and Tumor

When and in what format does a Clinic report?

- If submitting <50 case reports: Submit electronic or paper case reports within 30 calendar days from the date of diagnosis of cancer.
- If submitting 50 or more case reports: Submit in electronic format within 90 calendar days of initiation of treatment at the clinic; or diagnosis of cancer, if the clinic did not provide treatment.

Where can Clinics find the reports and how do Clinics send reports to the Arizona Cancer Registry?
Reporting forms, both general physician/clinic and melanoma, can be found at https://www.azdhs.gov/policy-intergovernmental-affairs/cancer-registry/index.php#cancer-case-reporting. Reports may be sent through regular USPS mail, courier, or faxed.

ARIZONA CANCER REGISTRY **Questions: Voice (602) 542-7320**
Rev 3.6.25 **150 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 140, Phoenix, Arizona 85007** **Fax (602) 542-7362**

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Examples of types of cases that are reported if the patient is not referred to a hospital (list not inclusive):

•Patient previously diagnosed and now comes to your clinic for a biopsy or additional treatment and the patient continues to have evidence, or a recurrence, or metastases.

•Physician performs biopsy in his/her office and the biopsy is positive for cancer and then the patient comes to your clinic for additional treatment (excision/resection). Case is reportable regardless of the outcome of pathology as the additional treatment is considered definitive treatment for cancer.

•Physician refers the patient to your clinic for biopsy and the path is stated to be a cancer.

•Patient goes to your clinic for a scope procedure, you perform a biopsy and the path report is positive for a reportable condition.

•Patient goes to one outpatient surgical facility and then goes to another radiation treatment center. Both facilities are required to report the case.

•If you are uncertain if the patient was referred to a hospital the clinic should report the case.

Statute: A.R.S. §36-133
Regulations: A.A.C. Title 9 Health Services, Chapter 4. Department of Health Services Noncommunicable Diseases, Articles 1. and 4. Cancer Registry

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