

# ACRA WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Note from the President:

I hope everyone has had an amazing 2017! It has been an extremely busy year for me. Besides being elected as the 2017-2018 ACRA President, I have had some monumental events happen in my personal life. My middle son graduated from high school in May and started to college in August. My oldest son graduated from Paramedic school and his fiancée graduated from nursing school both in May. And then my oldest son got married in June. So, wow what an amazingly wonderful year for me and my family!

The ACRA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs are already hard at work planning the 2018 Educational Conference. Our first BOD meeting was held on December 11<sup>th</sup> and plans were made for the ACRA Educational conference to be held at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, Alabama on October 11<sup>th</sup> and

12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. So please go ahead and mark your calendars.

My goals for my presidential term are first to increase ACRA membership by sending individual letters to CTRs and cancer registry staff that are not currently members inviting them to join our association. Second, is to provide quarterly newsletters that provide an abundance of information that will be of great interest and resources to cancer registries. And third, provide during our educational conference information on building professionalism in ourselves as CTRs.

Thank you all for your continued support of our association and I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

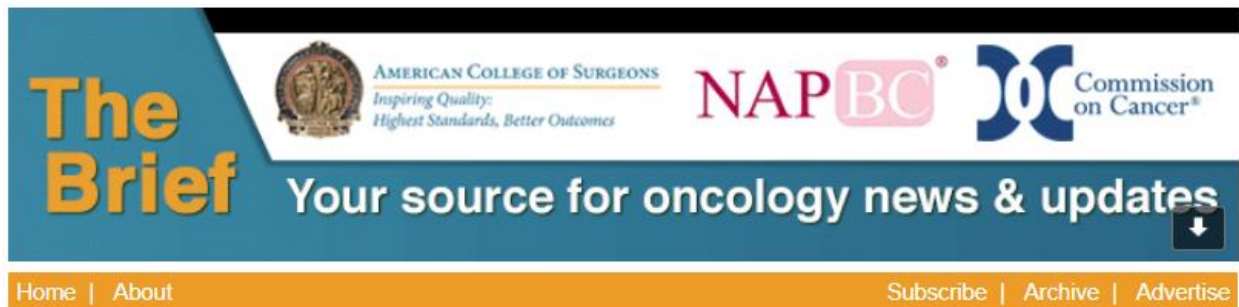
Wendy Richardson Culp, ACRA President

## 2017 and 2018 ACRA BOD

President	Wendy Culp		Membership	<u>LouEllen Marchman</u>	
President-Elect	<u>Lelia Edwards</u>		Ways and Means	Colton Brown	
Immediate Past-President	Shantel Dailey		Donations	Joanne Powers	
Vice President	Bonnie Nelson		Nominating	Chad Brown	
Secretary	Sheila Grant		Ballots	Cynthia Dixon	
Treasurer	Kelly Evers		Website	Shantel Dailey	
Treasurer Elect	Yolanda <u>Graham-Gatson</u>		Marketing	Tara Freeman	
Parliamentarian/Historian	Jamie Williams				
Education	Sheila Grant		Charter Member	<u>Lelia Edwards</u>	
Bylaws	Judy Smith		Charter Member	Barbara <u>Yarber</u>	

# Would you like to learn about Webpage designing?

*Well, we have a wonderful opportunity for you to get that start! We are looking for someone to work with Shantel Daily on the ACRA website. If you are interested or know someone in the association that would like to sit on the Webpage Committee, please contact Wendy Culp, President of ACRA. Her email address is [wendy.culp@eamc.org](mailto:wendy.culp@eamc.org)*



The Brief is a great source of information and opportunities for education, errata notices and a heads up on changes to the standards. If you do not receive their emails please sign up using the link. [Use this link to sign up for the Brief](#)

# ACRA WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Two Key Changes to the RQRS

Thu, Jun 1, 2017  
Posted by [Valerie Vesich](#)

If you are part of a Commission on Cancer (CoC)-accredited program, you are probably familiar with the Rapid Quality Reporting System (RQRS). This reporting and quality improvement tool assists cancer programs in promoting evidenced-based cancer care at the local level by providing real clinical time assessment of hospital level adherence to quality of cancer care measures.

The RQRS has been available to all CoC-accredited cancer programs since September 2011, but recent [changes have been announced regarding the system](#), specifically regarding RQRS Standard 5.2. Below we highlight two key changes that might affect your cancer program.

### (1) Compliance Rating

Per CoC/RQRS, “all cancer programs (with the exception of new programs) must be enrolled in RQRS by March 31, 2017” to meet the (1) Standard 5.2 Compliance Rating.

- First data submission must be completed by March 31, 2017
- Assessments for Standard 5.2 will begin April 2017
- Data submissions, including Measure Eligible (ME) sites, must be submitted at least every three calendar months (assessed for 2017 and forward)
- Data submissions must include, at a minimum two full diagnosis years

(e.g., In 2017 cases diagnosed from 2015 through the most recent in the cancer registry)

### (1+) Commendation Rating

To earn the (1+) Commendation Rating, programs must meet the commendation criteria three consecutive years.

- During 2018: 25% of 2017 RQRS ME sites must be submitted within three calendar months of the date of first contact.
- During 2019: 25% of 2017 and 50% of 2018 ME sites must be submitted within three calendar months of the date of first contact.
- During 2020: 25% of 2017, 50% of 2018, and 75% of 2019 ME sites must be submitted within three calendar months of the date of first contact.

When measures for new primary sites are added to RQRS, timeliness of submissions for the primary site will not be assessed for the initial year of release. Programs surveyed in 2017 will be rated using the criteria in the CoC Standards Manual (2012 V1.2.1). We hope you find this information as helpful as we did. To read the full update on RQRS implementation, visit the [American College of Surgeons' RQRS webpage](#).

Learn how [CHAMPS Oncology](#) can partner with you to develop customized strategies and solutions for your cancer program.

Posted in [CoC Standards](#)

# ACRA WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER



A QUALITY PROGRAM  
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OF SURGEONS



## 2015 Data Available in NCDB Reporting Tools

We are pleased to announce the NCDB reporting tools have been updated to include cases diagnosed in 2015. This update also includes newly-diagnosed or updated cases for earlier diagnosis years submitted by CoC-accredited cancer programs during the 2017 NCDB Call for Data.

Updated data has been published in the following tools:

- Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports
- Cancer Program Practice Profile Reports (CP<sup>3</sup>R)
- Survival Reports
- Public NCDB Benchmark Reports

Users are now able to view 2015 diagnoses in CP<sup>3</sup>R, the Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports and the Public NCDB Benchmark Reports as well as calculate 5-year survival for cases diagnosed through 2010.

### Cancer Quality Improvement Program (CQIP)

NCDB staff are working on preparing CQIP 2017 reports. The reports will also include estimated performance rates (EPRs) for cases diagnosed in 2015 for all measures reported in CP<sup>3</sup>R. **EPRs from CP<sup>3</sup>R as of December 22, 2017 will be reported in CQIP 2017.** We recommend programs prioritize review efforts in CP<sup>3</sup>R to focus on 2015 cases with Incomplete or Non-concordant case status to ensure that the highest quality data generate accurate EPRs reported in CQIP. **Please note:** The 2017 NCDB Completeness and Default Overuse Reports will be released concurrently with CQIP 2017.

The CoC and NCDB would like to collectively thank our hospital registrars for their perseverance in excellence during this time of annual change. Without the continued level of dedication demonstrated by hospital registrars in the United States the NCDB would not be able to adapt to change and meet our goals. *We are all in this together!*

As always, please contact the [NCDB](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

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## Continuing Education (CE) Opportunities

NCRA provides a variety of ways for cancer registrars who have earned the Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR®) credential to maintain it. Continuing Education (CE) credit opportunities include live webinars, learning modules, online courses, annual conference sessions, and quizzes based on articles from NCRA's peer-reviewed *Journal of Registry Management* (JRM).

**Note:** All learning activities have an expiration date for completion. Be sure to know what the expiration date is for your learning activity and complete before this date. Learning Modules and JRM Quizzes will expire **30** days after they have been accessed by the learner. Online Courses will expire after **60** days.

- **LIVE Webinars** - A Webinar is a live presentation. Participants register in advance and receive directions via e-mail on how to log-in. Additional resource materials may be sent and most webinars conclude with a Q&A session. Many of the live webinars will be archived and presented as

Learning Modules at a later date.

- **Learning Modules** - A Learning Module is a self-directed education experience that contains a video of an NCRA archived webinar, resource materials, a quiz, and an evaluation. Participants are able to print the Continuing Education (CE) Certificate immediately following the completion of the module and passing the quiz.
- **Online Courses** - An Online Course is a self-directed education course containing several learning modules. It is structured so the participant may leave the course and return at a later time to complete. Participants are able to print the Continuing Education (CE) Certificate following the completion of the course and passing all the quizzes.
- **JRM Quizzes** - NCRA offers members the opportunity to take a quiz based on an article in the *Journal of Registry Management* to earn up to 1 CE. Participants must pass the quiz in order to earn the CE.
- **NCRA Subscriptions** - A bundle of learning products that can be purchased for a discounted price and accessed for a specific period of time. The learner is able to choose the products they wish to complete and earn CE credit.
- **Educational DVDs and CDs** - The educational DVDs and CDs are previously recorded lectures/presentations that were captured from NCRA's annual conferences. It allows individuals who were unable to attend the conference to view and attain CE credit. A viewing form is provided with each DVD to assist participants in recording all the sessions they would like to purchase for CE credit (additional fees apply when purchasing CE credits).
- **Other CE Opportunities** - *Other CE Opportunities* houses unique educational activities with CE credits that do not fall under any of NCRA's established product lines.

## *\*Remembering April Fritz\**



[The Connection](#)  
[Remembering](#)  
[April Fritz](#) as it  
appeared in ***The***  
***Connection***. Use  
the link above to  
read in its entirety.



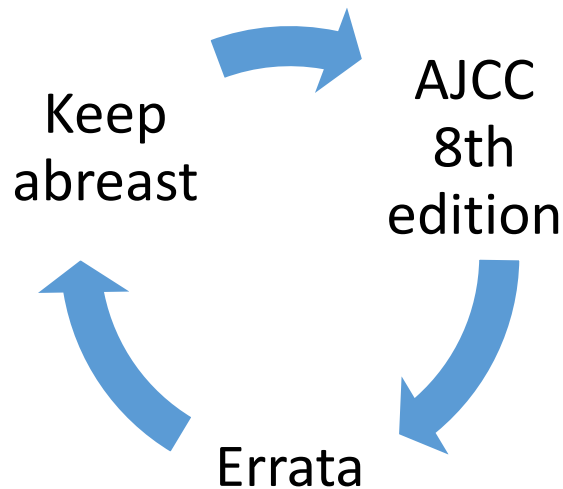


# ACRA WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

**YIKES!!!!**

Errata to the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition published. Use the following link:

[Updated AJCC Staging for Breast](#)



***Do you have a Facebook account? If so, please join our “private group” ACRA Members. This page was created after our meeting in 2017 in an effort to assist our members with networking and mentoring others.***

***We know changes are coming in 2018 and with these changes come lots of questions and we feel this is a great place to share links and “breaking news”.***

***In your FB search option type in ACRA Members and look for this***

***photo! The administrators of the page will accept your request once we confirm you are a paid member.***

ACRA Members

Closed Group

About

Discussion

Members

Events

Photos

Manage Group

Search this group



## ACRA WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Reminder: If you haven't paid your dues **please do so!**

Send dues to:

Gadsden Regional Cancer Center  
Attn: Kelly Evers  
200 Medical Center Drive  
Gadsden, Alabama 35903

Thank you.



### [2018 NCRA Conference in New Orleans May 20- 23, 2018](#)

*Since the meeting is so close to home, we hope most of you will have the opportunity to attend the conference this year. Please use the link above for additional information.*

*Maybe we can all get together at some point for a photo!*



# ACRA WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## *From the state*

Tara Freeman

- Please do not export any 2018 diagnosed cases in version 16 software. You can begin abstracting 2018 cases in version 16, but they cannot be exported until your software has been upgraded. The upgrade will not be released until all of the standard setters have released their 2018 updates and the edits can be aligned with the all of the changes. If abstraction of 2018 diagnosed cases are started in v16, please **do not** complete the following fields until your software has been updated:

- a. Grade
- b. AJCC T, N, M Stage groups and descriptors
- c. CS Site Specific Factors 1-25
- d. Radiation Treatment

These fields will be updated for 2018 diagnosed cases and therefore should not be completed in v16 software.

- **Summary Stage**
- Beginning with cases diagnosed in 2018 registrars will assign summary stage based on Summary Stage 2018. This is the first update to the Summary Stage system since 2001.
- The Solid Tumor Rules (previously known as the MP/H Rules) and the Hematopoietic Database and Manual will be updated for 2018 cases. The updated rules will reflect changes to ICD-O-3 based on updates of the WHO Classification of Tumors (Blue Books), AJCC 8th Edition Staging Manual, and clarifications to current rules. More information will be supplied when the manuals are available.

### AJCC Eighth Edition Webinars:

Feb. 15, 2018	<u>AJCC Staging Manual Eighth Edition Minor Rule Changes</u>	Webinar (1-2 pm CT)
March 20, 2018	<u>AJCC Staging Manual Eighth Edition Major Rule Changes</u>	Webinar (1-2 pm CT)
Apr. 17, 2018	<u>AJCC Staging Manual Eighth Edition CAnswer Forum and Staging Questions</u>	Webinar (1-2 pm CT)
July 21-24, 2018	<u>ACS Quality and Safety Conference</u>	Orlando
July 25, 2018	<u>AJCC Staging Manual Eighth Edition Head and Neck Staging</u>	Webinar (1-2 pm CT)
Sept. 6, 2018	<u>AJCC Staging Manual Eighth Edition Breast Staging</u>	Webinar (1-2 pm CT)

Please visit <https://cancerstaging.org/CSE/Registrar/Pages/8thEditionWebinars.aspx> for more information.

***. The ASCR is in need of 2016 diagnosed cases. Please ensure all of your cases for 2016 have been exported to the state.***



**Save the date!**

October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

ACRA 2018 Fall Meeting

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Share your ideas: Do you have suggestions for the ACRA 2018 Educational Conference? If so, please contact Wendy Culp, President of ACRA. Her email is [Wendy.culp@eamc.org](mailto:Wendy.culp@eamc.org)