

# BOOST YOUR CANCER PROGRAM

WITH CONTINUOUS, QUALITY DATA

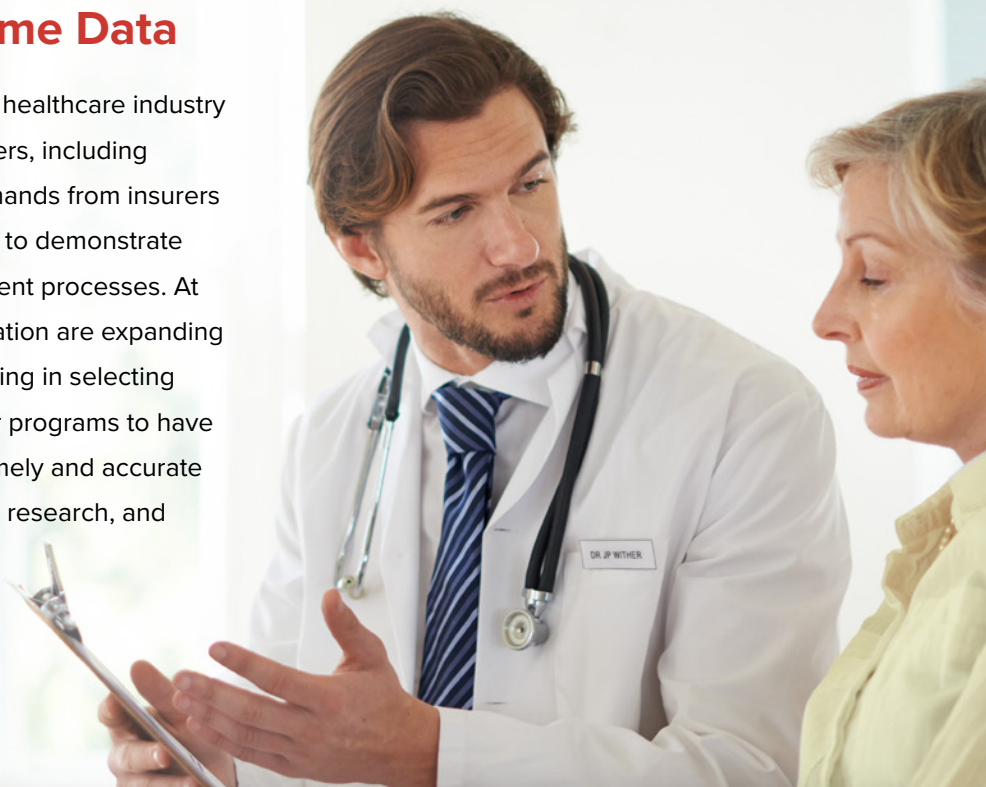


**RegistryPartners**

DATA ABSTRACTION / REGISTRY MANAGEMENT / CONSULTING

## Record Accurate, On-Time Data

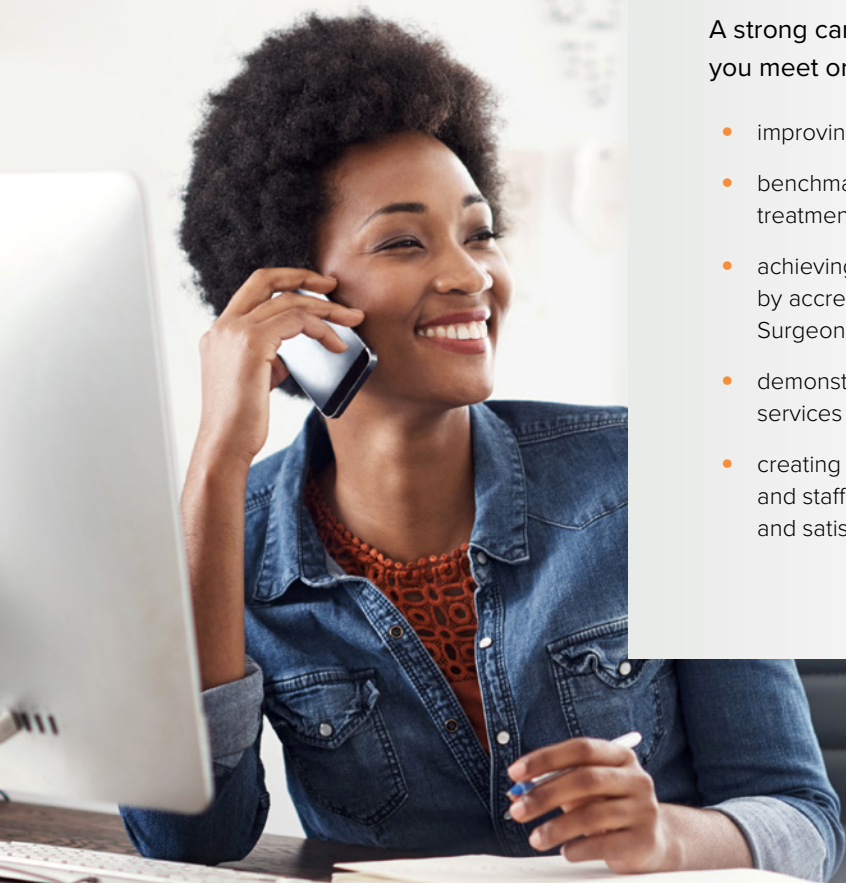
Data has never been more important to the healthcare industry than it is today. Hospitals and health providers, including cancer programs, are facing increasing demands from insurers and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to demonstrate quality of care and robust quality improvement processes. At the same time, cancer centers across the nation are expanding and consumers are becoming more discerning in selecting care. In this environment, it's vital for cancer programs to have cancer registries that constantly produce timely and accurate data for the measurement of best practices, research, and tracking of patient outcomes.



## Use Registry Data to Achieve Your Goals

A strong cancer registry program can produce data that helps you meet or exceed your program goals, including:

- improving quality of care through assessment
- benchmarking to compare your program with nationally accepted treatment guidelines
- achieving accreditation through standard compliance measurement by accreditation agencies, including the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
- demonstrating the timeliness, quality, and efficiency of cancer services provided
- creating a strategic plan that addresses future facility, equipment, and staffing needs, as well as patient migration, retention, and satisfaction



# 5 Essential Registry Components

How do you ensure your cancer registry is able to consistently provide quality data that not only meets registry requirements, but also helps your program succeed? There are five essential elements to creating an exceptional cancer registry program.

1

## Continuous Data Collection

To meet the changing demands of the industry, cancer registry abstraction has evolved to a more concurrent culture. In the past, cases were abstracted at about five to six months following the date of initial diagnosis. This allowed for all diagnostic and treatment information to be collected at one specified point in time. In order to provide more current data and to impact cancer care in a more timely manner, abstraction is now being performed soon after diagnosis and continually updated as adjuvant treatment modalities are implemented.

2

## Certified Tumor Registrars

A certified tumor registrar is able to confirm accuracy of the data and enter other cancer-related details that may not be stored in the standard EHR system. Certified registrars have completed specific educational requirements and successfully passed an examination that tests knowledge of data collection and coding; data management and quality; data analysis and interpretation; registry operations; and legal and professional considerations. Registrars also must complete continuing education to maintain their certification.

3

## Quality Assurance

Standard data checks are created by each state cancer registry, the Commission on Cancer, and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) to validate the quality of the data being collected. Within the medical facility, quality control policies and procedures are required and implemented to ensure the quality and integrity of the data. These methods include random sampling, physician and peer review, and benchmark comparison studies. Internal and external audits along with the software edit checks are imperative for transparent data reporting and accountability of the statistics being shared nationally and subsequently being published.

4

## Electronic Health Records

Cancer registries that are able to interface with a medical facility's electronic health records (EHR) system allow registrars to save time by downloading information directly into the cancer registry. A certified tumor registrar is able to confirm accuracy of the data and enter other cancer-related details that may not be stored in the standard EHR system. Having data in real time from an EHR allows a registry to consolidate records, complete reporting sooner, and verify quality data metrics.

5

## Data Analysis

Data collected by registries is often critical to detecting cancer clusters in the community and the development and tracking of the most effective therapies and treatments. Public health officials also use the data to make decisions related to research funding and educational and screening programs. It's also crucial to have certified cancer registrars that can produce data that meets requirements for accreditation, is useful to evaluate effectiveness, and helps administrators make strategic decisions and long-term cancer service line plans.

# Staffing Your Cancer Registry

Budget limitations and a shortage of certified tumor registrars often leave cancer programs with a very limited registry staff, resulting in only enough resources to perform the most basic data abstracting. This may lead to under utilization of existing data that can assist programs in achieving quality improvement goals.

Many hospitals are able to outsource registry services to supplement existing on-site staff. Some cancer care facilities choose to fully outsource their entire cancer registry.

If you are considering contracting with a registry service to either manage or augment your registry program, be certain to look for a company that offers the following:

- **Quality Control** — Data abstraction quality should be monitored on an on-going basis, and the outsource company should provide monthly quality control reports.
- **Productivity Monitoring** — Outsourcing companies should monitor and report on productivity of their certified tumor registrars to ensure value and quality for the client.
- **Communication & Documentation** — Regular communication and documentation of outsourced master tasks are essential to a successful registry function and partnership.
- **In-Depth Knowledge of Compliance** — Cancer registry outsource companies must have a deep knowledge of current accreditation standards and compliance requirements for the full scale agencies and commissions, including the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC), the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), and the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI).



## Learn More

*If you would like to learn more about how cancer registry data can help your cancer program succeed, contact the professionals at Registry Partners.*



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