



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

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To Whom It May Concern,

The National Cancer Institute is requesting that, where possible, all central cancer registries which are a part of the NCI's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program as well as hospital-based registries which submit data to these central registries continue to collect the Collaborative Staging data elements required to derive TNM and stage group using the CS algorithm past the CS to TNM transition deadline of January 2016. These data elements include CS Extension, CS Lymph Nodes, and CS Mets for all schemas. The NCI believes that it is important to monitor the trend difference between CS derived TNM and directly assigned TNM to ensure the compatibility of these two methods in the analysis of stage at diagnosis and will be using the continued collection of CS data elements for this purpose. At the present time the NCI would like to continue collection of this data until the introduction of the TNM 8th edition or until it can demonstrate that CS derived versus directly assigned data are comparable.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne Penberthy".

Lynne Penberthy, MD MPH
Associate Director
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Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
National Cancer Institute