

State of the Plan: Treatment

The New York State Cancer Registry (NYSCR) began collecting cancer treatment data in 2003 using nationally standardized coding guidelines. Three types of treatment data are being collected: cancer surgery, radiation therapy, and systemic therapy data. Surgery data allow for identification of the surgical procedure at the site of tumor origin, the biopsy and removal of regional lymph nodes, and the removal of distant tissue beyond the primary site. Radiation therapy data elements describe radiation modality and anatomic target, in addition to the dose and timing of treatment. Systemic therapy data include chemotherapy, hormone therapy, immunotherapy, endocrine therapy, and hematologic transplants.

Currently, the NYSCR is processing the treatment dataset for 2003 through 2006, reviewing it for quality and completeness. When this process is complete, the treatment data may become available for analysis. There are some limitations to the data including that not all hospitals and specialization facilities have the same reporting requirements and treatment information is not available when the cancer report is based on the results of a laboratory examination, an autopsy report, or a death file.

The collection of this data will help track the treatment goals of the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan as well as fulfill some of the strategies in the data and surveillance section of the Plan.