

For additional information please feel free to contact the California Cancer Registry or any of the Regional Cancer Registries listed below:

**California Department of Public Health  
California Cancer Registry**  
1631 Alhambra Blvd., Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 731-2500; FAX: (916) 454-1538  
[www.ccrca.org](http://www.ccrca.org)

**Region 1/8: Cancer Prevention Institute of California**  
2201 Walnut Avenue, Suite 300  
Fremont, CA 94538  
(510) 608-5000; FAX: (510) 608-5095  
(Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties) and the Bay Area Region (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties)

**Region 2: Cancer Registry of Central California**  
1825 Bell Street, Suite 102  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 779-0300; FAX: (916) 564-9300  
(Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne Counties).

**Region 3: Sacramento and Sierra Cancer Registry**  
1825 Bell Street, Suite 102  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 779-0300; FAX: (916) 564-9300  
(Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties)

**Region 4: Central Coast Cancer Registry**  
1825 Bell Street, Suite 102  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 779-0300; FAX: (916) 564-9300  
(San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties)

**Region 5: Desert Sierra Cancer Surveillance Program**  
11306 Mountain View Avenue, Suite B-100  
Loma Linda, CA 92354  
(909) 558-6174; FAX: (909) 558-6178  
(Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties)

**Region 6: Cancer Registry of Northern California**  
1825 Bell Street, Suite 102  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 779-0300; FAX: (916) 564-9300  
(Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama and Trinity Counties)

**Region 7: Cancer Registry of San Diego and Imperial Counties**  
1825 Bell Street, Suite 102  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 779-0300; FAX: (916) 564-9300  
(Imperial and San Diego Counties)

**Region 9: Cancer Surveillance Program - University of Southern California**  
Soto Street Building, Suite 305  
2001 North Soto Street, MC 9238  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-9238  
(323) 442-2300; FAX: (323) 442-2301  
(Los Angeles County)

**Region 10: Orange County Cancer Registry**  
1825 Bell Street, Suite 102  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 779-0300; FAX: (916) 564-9300  
(Orange County)



*The mission of the California Cancer Registry is to serve the public by collecting statewide data, and conducting surveillance and research into the causes, controls, and cures of cancer and communicating results to the public.*

1631 Alhambra Blvd., Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 731-2500



The California Cancer Registry is a collaborative effort between the California Department of Public Health, the Institute of Population Health Improvement, UC Davis Health Systems, and the regional cancer registries.



# THE CALIFORNIA CANCER REGISTRY



## A RESOURCE AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR CALIFORNIA PHYSICIANS



## THE CALIFORNIA CANCER REGISTRY – SEARCHING FOR CAUSES AND CURES

Cancer is a reportable disease and California's population-based cancer reporting system, the California Cancer Registry (CCR), is an essential tool in the effort to prevent and control this devastating disease. The mission of the CCR, which is managed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), is to serve the public by collecting statewide cancer data, conducting surveillance and research into the causes, controls, and cures of cancer, and communicating the results to the public. CCR has developed into one of the most prestigious cancer registries in the world, making significant contributions to our understanding and control of cancer.

California Cancer Registry (CCR) data are used to:

- Examine disparities in cancer risk, treatment and survival;
- Examine treatment choices and other predictors of survival;
- Measure the success of cancer screening programs;
- Respond to public concerns and questions about cancer; and
- Support research to find the causes and cures of cancer

- CCR data is used to create the California Cancer Facts & Figures report each year via a continued collaboration with the American Cancer Society, Inc. California Division.
- CCR data is also used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Every Woman Counts (EWC) Program. EWC provides free clinical breast exams, mammograms, pelvic exams, and Pap tests to California's underserved women.

Reports on cancer incidence and mortality data are available to physicians and the public on the CCR's web page – [www.ccrca.org](http://www.ccrca.org), along with an online data and mapping tool that will allow users to generate customized maps and tables of California cancer incidence or mortality rates by sex, race/ethnicity and by county (for individual counties that have populations large enough to produce stable rates).

### PHYSICIAN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In 1985, the California legislature enacted a law that established the California Cancer Registry (CCR), and since 1987, the California Health and Safety Code 103885 has required hospitals, physicians, and certain other health-care providers to report all new diagnoses of cancer. The exceptions are basal and squamous cell carcinomas of the skin other than on the genitalia, and carcinoma *in situ* of the cervix, and intraepithelial neoplasia grade III (CIN III) of the cervix.

Beginning January 1, 2001, diagnoses of borderline and benign primary intracranial and central nervous system (CNS) tumors are also reportable, as well as borderline ovarian cancer and Newly Reportable Hematopoietic Diseases (NRHD).

Physicians<sup>1</sup> must report diagnoses in those patients who do not undergo diagnostic procedures or treatment of their malignancies or brain tumors at a hospital or

other cancer-reporting facility<sup>2</sup> in California. The regional cancer registries, operating under the authority of CDPH, have the responsibility for abstracting the required data from the reporting physician's records.

- It is the physician's responsibility to complete a Confidential Physician Cancer Reporting Form, for all cases not entering a hospital or treatment facility, and send it to the Regional Cancer Registry that serves their county. The regional registries are listed on the back of this brochure. Physicians are to report cancer diagnoses within 30 days of first seeing the patient for the cancer.
- It is also the reporting physician's responsibility to inform patients that their cancer diagnosis has been reported to the CCR, as required by law. CCR has developed a "Patient Information Sheet," which physicians may use to inform their patients.
- The CCR has created a comprehensive document entitled "Physician Requirements for Cancer Reporting in California – Volume IV" which contains detailed description of these reporting requirements, a copy of the Confidential Physician Cancer Reporting Form and the Patient Information Sheet. This document can be accessed at [http://www.ccrca.org/Cancer\\_Reporting/Registrar\\_Resources/Reporting\\_Cancer\\_Cal.shtml](http://www.ccrca.org/Cancer_Reporting/Registrar_Resources/Reporting_Cancer_Cal.shtml).

- 1 The reporting requirements for physicians also apply to dentists, podiatrists, and other health-care practitioners, primary-care clinics (as defined in Section 1204 of the California Health and Safety Code), and acute care psychiatric hospitals (as defined in Section 1250 of the Code) for cases they diagnose or treat without referring the patients to a cancer-treatment facility.
- 2 Under Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, 2593 (a)(7), cancer-reporting facility is defined as a hospital or other facility that diagnoses or treats cancers and is either
  - (a) Licensed as a health facility under the provisions of the Health and Safety Code (commencing with Section 1250); or
  - (b) A surgical clinic licensed under the Health and Safety Code, Section 1204; or
  - (c) Covered by the provisions of Section 1206, except for subsection (f), of the Code and even though it is not licensed as a clinic, is operated for the predominant purpose of diagnosing or treating cancer or where 100 or more cancer cases are diagnosed or treated in a year.



### CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality of data collected is strictly maintained in accordance with Health and Safety Code Sections 10033 and 103885; Civil Code, Sections 56.05 and 1798; Government Code Sections, 6250-6265; and Federal Law PL 104-191. CDPH has more than 50 years' experience in handling confidential records. Laws, regulations and programmatic safeguards are in place throughout the system to assure that the identities of patients are not revealed.

The Health and Information Portability Act (HIPAA) does not change or affect the mandate for reporting cancer in California. The California Cancer Registry and its Regional Cancer Registries are considered Public Health authorities and disclosure of protected health information to the registries is permitted by HIPAA without patient signed consent per HIPAA federal regulations citation: 45 CFR 164.512.

California law does not require written or verbal patient consent to report cancers to CCR, and specifically exempts physicians from any legal action or damages from meeting their legal obligation to report cancer cases or to provide access to those patient's medical records.

