

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 28, 2003

To: Regional Registry Staff and Hospital Registrars

From: Nancy C. Schlag, BS, CTR
Manager, Data Standards and Quality Control Unit

Data Item: Palliative Procedures

Issue: Current statements in the ACoS "FORDS on the ROADS" document instruct registrars **not** to record palliative procedure information in the treatment fields. Historically, this information has always been recorded in the treatment fields whether it was curative or palliative. Consequently, registrars now need to enter some of the treatment in the treatment fields and some of it in the palliative procedure fields. This will impact a hospital's/central registry's analysis on treatment, i.e., it will appear that less treatment is being given for a specific cancer.

For this reason, the ACoS will re-consider how to implement this data item. In the meantime, **registrars should continue collecting all treatment in the treatment fields as well as coding the applicable information in the palliative procedure fields. This is effective with cases diagnosed January 1, 2003 forward.** This will result in double coding, but the historical coding of the treatment fields will be preserved. This interim recommendation was discussed and approved at the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries' Uniform Data Standards Committee meeting on August 26, 2003.