

Draft Description of Two New Data Elements for Survival – Presumed Alive

Note: For the November 2012 submission, these 2 data elements will be in the state requestor part of the NAACCR record since the process has not allowed time to get them approved and in the NAACCR record layout. It is anticipated that they will be in the record for the November 2014 submission.

SURVIVAL MONTHS – PRESUMED ALIVE

Alternate Name	Item #	Length	Source of Standard	Column #
		4	NAACCR	2598-2601

Description

Under the "presumed alive" scenario, all persons not known to be deceased will be censored as alive on December 31, 2010 for the November 2012 call for data. The date of December 31, 2010 was selected because state/provincial death clearance is expected to be performed for 2010 incident cases for the November 2012 call for data, and 2010 deaths are available for linkage with the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics National Death Index.

The survival interval in months is calculated using the month, day, and year of the Date of diagnosis [390] and the month, day, and year of the last date for which complete death ascertainment is available (Dec 31, 2010 for the November 2012 call for data). The survival interval is calculated by a program available from your standard setter or NAACCR. If the day or month of diagnosis is unknown or not available, the values are imputed by the program.

Example of a case diagnosed in 2010 and submitted in 2012.

Date of submission: 11/1/2012

Date of diagnosis: 9/15/2010

Date of last contact: 10/17/2010

Vital status: Alive

Study cutoff date: 12/31/2010

Under the "presumed alive" scenario, 12/31/2010 would be used at the endpoint for the survival calculation. The presumed alive survival time would be 3 months, while the survival time using the date of last contact would be 1 month.

Rationale

Accurate survival estimates are crucial for monitoring trends in population-based cancer survival and assessing the effectiveness of healthcare delivery to cancer patients. With the aim of obtaining the most precise estimates of survival, it is necessary to use complete dates (month, day, and year components) in the calculation of the survival interval. The survival interval in months is calculated using complete dates, and the algorithm imputes missing components of dates when they are not available in central registry records.

Because not all central cancer registries conduct active patient follow-up, it is necessary to have an option for calculating survival times based on the assumption that the registry has ascertained all available deaths, and persons not known to be deceased are presumed to be alive as of the last date for which complete death ascertainment is available.

Additional information about the algorithm and what specific values are assigned in given missing date situations are available here: <http://seer.cancer.gov/survivaltime/>.

Codes

A value of 9999 is for missing and matches the Survival Months Flag value of 9 or blank.

Calculation

Survival months = FLOOR((endpoint – date of diagnosis) / days in a month)

The FLOOR function always rounds down, e.g., FLOOR(1.68) = 1. Days in a month is assigned to 365.24/12.

SURVIVAL MONTHS FLAG – PRESUMED ALIVE

Alternate Name	Item #	Length	Source of Standard	Column #
		1	NAACCR	2602-2602

Description

This flag is generated by the program and describes how complete the date information is that was used to calculate survival months.

Rationale

The flag will enable analysts to easily select a subset of cases.

Codes:

- 0 Complete dates are available and there are 0 days of survival (i.e., presumed alive date last contact = date of diagnosis)
- 1 Complete dates are available and there are more than 0 days of survival (i.e. presumed alive date last contact > date diagnosis)
- 2 Incomplete dates are available and there could be zero days of follow-up (i.e., known components are equal, e.g. 99/99/2006 and 10/02/2006)
- 3 Incomplete dates are available and there cannot be zero days of follow-up (i.e., any difference in known date components, e.g. 02/99/2006 and 03/99/2006)
- 9 Unknown
- Blank Not coded