

Draft Description of Two New Data Elements for Survival

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

Alternate Name	Item #	Length	Source of Standard	Column #
		4	NAACCR	2593-2596

Description

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 Date of Last Contact [1750]. The survival interval is calculated by a program available from your standard setter or NAACCR. If the day or month of either date is unknown or not available, the values are imputed by the program.

For purposes of the survival calculation the program creates a temporary date variable, survival endpoint, that is defined as the earlier of the Date of Last Contact [1750] and a study cutoff date. The study cut-off date is a pre-determined date based on the year of data submission and is set in the program. For example, for the November 2012 submission for all eligible cases diagnosed through 2010, December 31, 2010 would be used as the study cut-off date.

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

Date of submission: 11/1/2012

Date of diagnosis: 6/1/2010

Date of last contact: 9/30/2011

Vital status: Alive

Study cutoff date: 12/31/2010

12/31/2010 would be used at the endpoint for the survival calculation.

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. 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

Alternate Name	Item #	Length	Source of Standard	Column #
		1	NAACCR	2597-2597

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., date last contact = date of diagnosis)
- 1 Complete dates are available and there are more than 0 days of survival (i.e. 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