

Summary of Regulatory Changes for Hospitals & Radiotherapy Services

On 1st October 2015, the *Cancer (Reporting) Regulations 2012 (Vic)* were replaced with the *Improving Cancer Outcomes (Diagnosis Reporting) Regulations 2015 (Vic)*. These regulations accompany the new *Improving Cancer Outcomes Act 2014 (Vic)* which mandates cancer reporting by hospitals and specified health services.

The expected compliance dates to implement these new regulations is for hospitals from 1st July 2016, and for Radiotherapy Services from 1st January 2017.

Prescribed time to report

From the 1st July 2016, the prescribed time to report is 60 days from the date the health service becomes aware that a person has cancer. This has changed from 30 days in the previous regulations.

Data elements

As specified in Schedule 1, there are three (3) new data elements to be reported to the Victorian Cancer Registry (VCR). These will be further clarified in the VCR document, *Electronic Notification of Cancer Information Kit – Hospitals and Radiotherapy Services*.

The new data elements for inclusion in cancer registration and those where changes have occurred are detailed below:

Data Element	Changes
Treating Doctor Medicare Provider Number	New data element The Medicare Provider Number issued by Medicare The Medicare Provider Number is an 8-digit alphanumeric code used to identify the individual and the location from which a service is delivered. The Medicare Provider Number for the treating doctor (doctor in charge case), if known.
General Practitioner Medicare Provider Number	New data element The Medicare Provider Number issued by Medicare The Medicare Provider Number is an 8-digit alphanumeric code used to identify the individual and the location from which a service is delivered. The Medicare Provider Number for the general practitioner (local medical officer), if known
Cancer staging system	New data element Cancer staging system is used to classify the stage of cancer at diagnosis The options for this element are listed in the <i>Electronic Notification of Cancer Information Kit (Hospitals & Radiotherapy Services)</i> page 10.
Stage of cancer at diagnosis	Replaces 'degree of spread' Although stage of cancer and degree of spread both describe the extent of the cancer at time of diagnosis, this change is to support comparability of cancer stage data with other national and international cancer registries. It is also expected that stage at diagnosis is more likely to be recorded in the medical record than degree of spread, thus supporting more consistent data capture.
Date of discharge	Replaces 'date of last contact' This change is to clarify the exact date to include in the cancer registration Date of discharge or separation from the health service
Occupation	Removal of Occupation This data element was removed as the information was frequently of limited epidemiological value. With long latency periods from exposure to development of cancer, diagnosis is commonly made after a person has left paid employment. The analysis of potential occupational risk factors requires a person's whole lifetime of occupation rather than that at the point of diagnosis.

Victorian Cancer Registry

Cancer Council Victoria

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