
MODMM SPRING/SUMMER 2025

President's Message

by Jackie Halsey, BS, CNMT, ODS-C

It is easy to get caught up in the daily tasks and the obstacles that come our way and dwell on them. Remember, every achievement begins with a single step. We may face challenges, but let's not allow them to become barriers. Instead, stepping stones to improve, learn, and solve.

I encourage you to reflect on your purpose in your job and personal goals. Recall your true intentions.

Always move forward with renewed energy, optimism in our hearts, and with the belief that we are truly Data Superheroes. We truly do enhance cancer care one data point at a time.

Thank you for everything you do for the profession and the fight against cancer.

Jackie Halsey, BS, CNMT, ODS-C

MCRA President

National Cancer Registrars Association 2025 Conference, Orlando, Florida

It was an honor to attend the NCRA 2025 national conference representing the MN Cancer Registrars Association. I am a true believer in the power of in-person conferences. The energy, the connections you make, and the hands-on learning you get are different from virtual settings. It was a pleasure to see so many ODS representing MN. I was delighted to meet in person past students and converse with MCRA members, friends, and other ODS professionals. Also, I make a point at every conference to meet some new colleagues with the hopes that I will connect with them again in the future.

As a benefit of being president, you get to attend the conference paid by MCRA. If you have never been to a conference or want to venture out professionally, please consider volunteering for MCRA and being on the board. It truly does not take a ton of time, and the impact is essential. Thank you for allowing me to attend as your president.

Below are some key points noted from some sessions:

- Immunotherapies are about to enhance and improve the anti-cancer response.
- Blood-based testing is massively improving, but not perfect.
- Clinical trials remain the best route for advancing science.
- Autologous Stem Cell Transplant (Code 20) is more common than BMT (Code 11 or

- 12). Be mindful of that potential coding error.
- 5-Digit Morphology codes will not be here before 2028.
 - SEER Educate is updated annually, which is why you may find some slight differences when a manual updates mid-year.
 - Only 140 Radiation Proton Machines in the US, very expensive; Mayo does have one.
 - For lung, there is no stage group for T2- always assign a subcategory.
 - Visual editing and matching the text to the code are beneficial for QA.
 - Brain tumors with behavior code 0, always code Grade 1, never 9.
 - Any new NAPBC program applying in 2026 and beyond will need to be CoC-accredited.
 - NAPBC can now rely on CoC accreditation to evaluate baseline cancer care standards, and it will eliminate duplicate work.
 - A good practice is to perform a Death Match more than once a year.
 - Two excellent and resourceful posters, GYN malignancy and How to use the Heme Database guides, were created.
 - Accreditation bodies and other stakeholders continue to push for concurrent abstraction without increasing resources.
 - The Pediatric SSDI workgroup has been working hard to help standardize the pediatric cancer data collection.
 - It is important to still be visible in a remote working environment.



MCRS Update/Info

By Jennifer L. Nelson, ODS, NR-EMT



REMINDERS:

- Grade codes for in situ breast cancers are L, M, H (or 9). Codes 1-3 (or 9) are for invasive breast cancers.
 - See the Grade Coding Instructions and Tables manual for further details.
- Grade codes for bladder urothelial cancers are codes L, H and 9. If only G1-G3 are documented, code to 9. For adenocarcinomas & squamous cell carcinomas of the bladder use codes 1-3, or 9. If only L or H are documented, code 9.
 - See the Grade Coding Instructions and Tables manual for further details.
- Bladder: To code 22 (pre-2023) or A220 (2023+) fulguration must be used to destroy tumor tissue, not just clean up the area or cauterize bleeders. If fulguration or cauterization is only used to control bleeding code to 27 (pre-2023) or A270 (2023+)
 - Resource: NAACCR Bladder 2021 Webinar
 - Resource: Multiple CAnswer Forum examples
- NAACCR Data Item #1117: Mets at DX – Other
 - Reminder that malignant pleural effusion is coded to Mets at DX – Other & Not Mets at DX – Lung
 - Resource: NAACCR Data Dictionary: This field identifies any type of distant involvement not captured in the Mets at Dx-Bone [1112], Mets at Dx-Brain [1113], Mets at Dx-Liver [1115], Mets at Dx-Lung [1116], and Mets at Dx-Distant LN [1114] fields. It includes involvement of other specific sites and more generalized metastases such as carcinomatosis. Some examples include but are not limited to the adrenal gland, bone marrow, pleura, malignant pleural effusion, peritoneum, and skin.
- Testis sites should be coded to C62.1 for descended testicle
 - Resource: SEER SINQ 20140005: Unless the testicle is stated to be undescended, it is reasonable to code C621 for primary site. Reserve C629 for cases with minimal or conflicting information.
- SSDI – Residual Tumor Volume Post Cytoreduction
 - Remember cytoreductive surgery can also be referred to as debulking
 - We have seen this coded to 00/No gross residual tumor nodules when a cytoreductive or debulking surgery was not performed.
 - We have also seen this coded to 97/No cytoreductive surgery performed when a debulking or cytoreductive surgery actually was performed.
 - Please refer the SSDI Manual for further information

SUMMARY STAGE CODING ERRORS – TESTIS:

- At a meeting on 5/21/2025 NPCR stated they are still seeing problems with testis staging

- This is the article I initially wrote for the MODMM Spring/Summer 2023 regarding this issue
 - Testis Summary Stage 2018+ Schema ID 00590 error:
 - MCRS was informed by NPCR/CDC of a SEER Summary Stage 2018, v2.0, Schema ID 00590 error that incorrectly shifted cases to Regional by direct extension only (code 2) or Regional by BOTH direct extension AND regional lymph node(s) involved (code 4). As a result, the stage distribution was incorrectly inflated for these groups.
 - MCRS reviewed testis cases 2018+ to determine if the tumor was limited to the testis and recoded affected cases to code 1 (Localized only) or code 3 (Regional lymph node(s) involved only).
 - MCRS recommends you query your database to determine if you have cases that should be recoded.
- If you make corrections please do not resubmit these cases as MCRS has already recoded these in our database
- NPCR Recommendations from the 5/21/2025 reiterate my 2023 article and states:
 - Identify Testis Cases (Schema ID 00590) for review:
 - Diagnosed 2018+
 - Primary Site = Testis (C620 – C629)
 - SS2018 = regional (codes 2 or 4)
 - LVI = positive (codes 1-4)
 - Review the identified cases to determine if the stage should be Localized (coded to 1) or Regional (coded to 2) or Lymph Node involvement only (coded to 3) based on SS18 Manual v2.1 or most recently updated manual.

MCRS POSTER PRESENTATION AT NCRA CONFERENCE 2025:

- Chris and I coauthored a poster which was accepted for presentation at the NCRA Conference in May in Orlando regarding the intern partnership we developed between the Minnesota Department of Health and Rochester Community and Technical College.



Professional Development News

Sara Bernsdorf, ODS-C; Jackie Halsey, CNMT, ODS-C; Sandi Kolby, RHIT, ODS; Cheryl Borovansky, RHIT, ODS-C; Sami Kendrick, BS, ODS-C; Amanda Hlad RHIA, ODS-C

Save the Dates

MCRA/WCRA 10th Annual Conference October 9-10, 2025 at the Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport in Bloomington.

AHIMA 2025 National Conference October 12-14, 2025 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Sign up for notifications: <https://conference.ahima.org/>

Register for upcoming NCRA Events:

Live Webinar 1: Introduction to Genetics and the Nomenclature for Cancer Registrars (2025): Learn how the role of genetics plays in cancer data and cancer surveillance. This webinar is scheduled for Wednesday June 4th at 2:00pm EST Earn 1 CE credit. Deadline to register is May 30.

Live Webinar 2: Therapy by Design: How Genetics Shape Treatment Decisions (2025): Explore genetic cancer genes and their role in cancer diagnosis and management. This webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18 at 2:00 PM ET. Earn 1 CE credit. Deadline to register is June 13.

Live Webinar: The Nuts and Bolts of Interoperability: Learn what interoperability means, how it is used, and the vital role it will play in cancer data and surveillance. This webinar is scheduled for June 24, 2024 at 2:00 PM ET. Deadline to register is June 20. Earn 1 CE.

<https://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/live-webinars>

Have a group of six or more people. Check-out NCRA's group rates.

https://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/Files/Org/f3f3d382a7a242549a9999654105a63b/Site/GroupSale_Summer2025_Genetics_4_7_25.pdf

https://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/Files/Org/f3f3d382a7a242549a9999654105a63b/Site/GroupSale_Summer2025_Interoperability_4_15_25.pdf

Professional Development Opportunities:

- NCRA Badge Programs: <https://www.cancerregistryeducation.org/badge-program>
- MCRA NAACCR Webinars: <https://mcra.net/education/professional-development/>
- Follow Registry Partners ODS Coding Breaks on YouTube:
 - o <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjpQWPJgmAXS9pToKMT1ixyGJOHUnJH0k>
 - o When you follow them, they notify you of new ones. One is usually posted monthly.
- Review Omega Healthcare Tumor Talk Tips:
 - o <https://www.omegahms.com/category/tumor-talk/>
- Attend upcoming or view past webinars:
 - o <https://www.omegahms.com/webinars-events/>

Nominating Committee Message

Erin Hammell, RHIT, ODS; Nancy Hedstrom, RHIT, ODS; Kathy Lougiu, ODS; Melanie Johnson, ODS-C

The nominating committee will be looking for volunteers and/or nominations for executive board positions next spring/summer for the 2026/2027 Executive Board. *Please strongly consider volunteering so that we may keep our organization running smoothly.*

Eligibility: Any member in good standing for one full year prior to nomination shall be eligible to hold office. To be eligible for the office of President-Elect, a member must have served one full term on the Executive Committee prior to nomination.

These are the positions open for 2026/2027:

President-Elect: Shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and shall succeed to the office of President at the conclusion of his/her term of office. The President-Elect shall co-chair the Professional Development committee. Ensure website information is correct.

Secretary: Shall be responsible for records of all MCRA proceedings and shall distribute minutes of all business meetings to the membership.

Treasurer: Shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all funds of MCRA and shall make written reports to the Executive Committee and to the membership. The treasurer shall serve on the Membership Committee.

These are the committees needing volunteers for 2026/2027:

Professional Development Committee: Shall be Responsible for leadership in the Professional Development of MCRA membership. It shall include the President-Elect, with responsibility for educational programs. It will include persons responsible for support of members seeking ODS-C status, and any other members as deemed by the President or the Executive Committee.

Communications Committee: The Communications Committee will include persons responsible for the MCRA newsletter, the MODMM (The Minnesota Oncology Data Managers Monitor) and for taking photographs. Liaisons to the Minnesota Cancer Council, National Cancer Registrars association, Minnesota Health Information Management Association, Commission on Cancer, Minnesota Cancer Reporting System, Others as felt necessary, in order to carry on the responsibilities of the communications committee.

Website Coordinator: Shall be responsible for working with the Webmaster to ensure smooth operation of the MCRA website.

Nominating Committee: There shall be at least four members on the Nominating Committee, the chairperson (appointed by the newly elected President), the immediate Past-President, and two other members elected by the MCRA at the Fall Annual Meeting. They are responsible for preparing, mailing, and tallying the ballots in accord with Article V. No member of this committee shall be eligible for office.

Membership Committee: Shall be responsible for acceptance of new members and for distribution of updated rosters to the members. The MCRA Treasurer shall be a member of this committee and provide updated information on payment of dues.

If you are interested in volunteering and/or nominating anyone for any of these positions, please contact one of the nominating committee members. Thank you for your consideration in fulfilling these positions.

Membership News

By Chunny Daiker, BS, RHIT, ODS

The MCRA Membership Directory will be solely online. The directory can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/view/2025mcramembership/home>

Welcome to the new members of MCRA for 2025

- Phillip Dassinger – City of Waubun
- Lisa Garrett – Sentara Health
- Kathy Gilbertson – Mayo Clinic
- Timothy Kutz – MCRS
- Jessica Lindgren – Q-Centrix
- Tammy Ninnemann – SAVISTA
- Sharee Perry – Essentia Health
- Laura Raske – MCRS
- Daniela Rivera – CentraCare

Statistics for 2025 MCRA Membership

- 95 Total members (of the 95, 9 are new members)
- 5 retirements:
 - o Judy Connolly from Essentia Health
 - o Donna Hansen from MCRS (retirement Sept 2024)
 - o Patty Lehman from HealthEast/Fairview (retirement May 2024)
 - o Nancy Grandner from HealthEast/Fairview (retirement 11/8/2024)
 - o Leah Watkins from MCRS (retirement April 2025)

Please reach out to me at chunny.daiker@fairview.org if you need to make any changes to your MCRA directory profile.

Thank you for continuing to support MCRA!

Outstanding Member Award

Melissa Shankey, RHIT, ODS; Mona Highsmith; Jane Siekkinen, BS, ODS

Nominations are now open for the MCRA Outstanding Member Award, which will be presented by the President at the fall business meeting. Nominations must be received no later than August 15.

The recipient of the "OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD" will receive a certificate and will be our guest at an MCRA workshop (workshop fee waived). In addition, the honoree's name will be engraved on a perpetual plaque that will be displayed at each workshop, and the award will be publicized in the MODMM.

PURPOSE:

- To honor a member of MCRA for outstanding contributions to the cancer registry profession.
- To encourage in members the desire to contribute to the development and growth of the profession.
- To further public awareness of the scope and importance of the profession.

ELIGIBILITY

- Candidates must be a current active member of MCRA.
- Candidates must have contributed to MCRA and to the cancer registry profession in one or more of the following ways: service to the association, outstanding achievement in professional practice, leadership, education, research and/or published materials.

The nomination form and supporting documentation are the only information about the nominees available to the Awards Committee. Therefore, it is necessary to complete the nomination form in detail. The individual nominating a candidate may choose to provide all the information requested on the nomination form without informing the nominee that he/she is proposing his/her name. This is satisfactory provided that all the information necessary to adequately describe the candidate's achievements is submitted for evaluation to the Awards Committee.

To nominate a MCRA member for this award please submit:

1. The application
2. A narrative summary (no more than 200 words)
3. Letters of support, if desired. (No more than 3)

The application form is attached to the newsletter email, please consider nominating someone!



For mentoring opportunities:
<https://www.ncra-usa.org/Education/Mentoring-IA-Program>

Treasurer Report

By Amanda Hlad, RHIA, CTR

Here is the cash flow report and account balance for 2025 to date. Remaining estimated expenses for the year are:

- \$60 - website domain
- \$2295 - NAACCR webinars

Income and Expenses from the upcoming Regional Conference will also affect the 2025 budget.

Cash Flow - Year To Date

1/1/2025 through 6/2/2025

Category	1/1/2025- 6/2/2025
INFLOWS	
2025 Membership Dues	4,215.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	4,215.00
OUTFLOWS	
CTR Exam Stipend	100.00
NCRA Meeting	
MCRA - President Elect Support	2,202.70
NCRA Basket Expenses	186.72
TOTAL NCRA Meeting	2,389.42
Website	
Domain Account	65.70
Online registration	417.96
TOTAL Website	483.66
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,973.08
OVERALL TOTAL	1,241.92

Account Balances - As of 6/2/2025

Account	6/2/2025 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking-US Bank	32,330.13
TOTAL Bank Accounts	32,330.13
OVERALL TOTAL	32,330.13

MCRA Website | mcra.net

By Thomas Coles, ODS, CHES - The Website Guy

The MCRA Website is continually being updated with the most currently released NAACCR Webinars, job postings, MCRA newsletters, among other important website-worthy tidbits. As always feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thanks much! – The Website Guy

Bylaws Committee Report

By Linda Vanstrom, ODS

There were no proposed Bylaws amendments to vote on at the Fall MCRA/WCRA Workshop.

Communications

By Breana Norton, BA, ODS

As the Communication Chair, I manage the mcracommunications@gmail.com email by forwarding communications from the executive board to the membership and creating the biannual newsletter. As always, if you have any suggestions about the MODMM or any questions or concerns about email communications, please feel free to contact me. Thanks!



The poster features two logos on the left: the WCRA logo (Wisconsin Cancer Registrars Association) with a purple ribbon and a map of Wisconsin, and the MCRA logo (Minnesota Cancer Registrars Association) with a blue map of Minnesota. The right side of the poster has a grey background with a blue triangle at the bottom right corner. The text is centered and reads: 'Save the Date!' in large blue font, followed by 'Featuring keynote speaker Vicki Hawhee' in smaller blue font, and 'MCRA/WCRA 10th Annual Conference' in bold black font. Below that, the dates 'October 9-10, 2025' and the location 'Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport, 7901 34th Ave South, Bloomington, MN' are listed in black font. At the bottom left, it says 'In person & virtual registration will be available!'.

 **WCRA**
Wisconsin Cancer Registrars Association

 **MINNESOTA CANCER REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION**
MCRA

In person & virtual registration will be available!

Save the Date!

Featuring keynote speaker [Vicki Hawhee](#)

MCRA/WCRA 10th Annual Conference
October 9-10, 2025
Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport
7901 34th Ave South
Bloomington, MN