



FACT SHEET

From the Missouri Cancer Registry and Research Center (MCR-ARC)

Cancer Reporting for Dermatologists

MCR Cancer Reporting for Dermatologists

What are a physician's statutory obligations in reference to cancer reporting?

MCR relies on physicians and healthcare facilities to submit information beginning with the patient's diagnosis through the first course of treatment as mandated in 192.650-192.657 RSMo. Physicians do not have to report cases that will be reported by a hospital.

Will the patient's right to confidentiality be breached if this information is reported to the Missouri Cancer Registry?

All cancer cases submitted to MCR are covered by the regulations that accompany the legislation protecting the identity of the patient, hospital, physician, health care provider, pathology laboratory, ambulatory surgical center, free-standing cancer clinic or treatment center. (See also Chapters 192.067 and 192.655 of the Missouri Revised Statutes.) HIPAA allows for the reporting of identifiable cancer data as required by law to public health entities such as the Missouri Cancer Registry. Neither written informed consent from each patient nor a Business Associate Agreement is required to report data to a public health entity.

Reporting cancer cases to MCR is the same as reporting communicable diseases to a local public health authority (LPHA). This is also stated in the Federal Register (Vol.65, no.250): 164.512: Uses and disclosures for which consent, an authorization, or opportunity to agree or object is not required. (a) Standard: Uses and disclosures required by law. (b) Standard: uses and disclosures for public health activities.

Will physicians and other health care professionals be liable for breach of confidentiality?

Physicians and other health care professionals cannot be liable if state law requires reporting of cancer cases. (See Missouri Revised Statutes, Chapter 92 Department of Health and Senior Services, Section 192.657).

Should we report patients seen only for consults or second opinions?

It is not necessary to submit forms for patients only seen in consultation or for a second opinion. However, it would assist MCR with casefinding if you would complete at least the patient information and the treating physician information on the form. MCR could then follow-back to that physician for complete treatment information.

What should we do when the diagnosis is not melanoma, but another cancer?

Other cancers that can be diagnosed by skin biopsies include: cutaneous T cell lymphoma (mycosis fungoides), kaposi sarcoma, merkel cell (cutaneous neuroendocrine) cancer, fibroxanthoma, extramammary Paget disease, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, cutaneous metastases, etc. If you have questions about reportability, please call MCR at 866-240-8809. Please do not use the melanoma cancer-reporting form for these diagnoses. There is another form that you may use located in the physician-reporting section of the MCR website (<https://medicine.missouri.edu/cancer-registry-research-center/resources/non-hospital-reporting-physician>).

Should we send follow-up information on a patient?

It is not necessary to send additional information on a patient, unless the patient has returned for previously unreported treatment or for diagnosis/treatment of a new melanoma.

For further information, please contact the Missouri Cancer Registry:

573-882-7775

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