

March 25, 2008
Special Announcement

New Release

COLLABORATIVE STAGING SYSTEM VERSION 01.04.01

The Collaborative Staging Task Force announces the release of Collaborative Staging (CS) version 01.04.01, on March 25, 2008. The CS Task Force resolved issues with the computer algorithm for deriving prostate AJCC categories and stage group, and breast histology 9020 so it can be staged. The new files are relevant for vendors only. **There are no changes to the printed CS Manual 01.04.00 or its PDF counterpart, codes or text.**

All programming files for this release are available for download from the CS Web page at <http://cancerstaging.org/cstage/index.html>. Changes in the new version affect some derived fields. It is recommended that vendors deliver these updates to their clients as soon as possible.

Implementation of Collaborative Staging Version 01.04.01 requires two actions:

1. Replace the Computer Algorithm

Vendors should replace the CS algorithm that calculates derived stage values and follow “Vendor Actions” instructions in the “Software” section of the CS Web pages to implement the necessary changes. Systems utilizing the Windows Dynamic Link Library (DLL) should replace the cstage.dll file. For other systems, some programming or recompiling will be required.

2. Re-run the Algorithm

Software vendors will provide instructions to registrars on how to re-run the algorithm on **all cases** previously entered with older versions, ensuring derived fields for all cases will be consistent with version 01.04.01. This may be done all at once on existing data, depending on software capability, or there may be procedures for applying the new algorithm when data are extracted. Cases will have the new version number stored in the CS Version Latest field.

The CS Version 01.04.01 documents available online include:

- CS Algorithm DLL and All Release Files
- Release Notes (contained in the following documents):
 - Vendor Actions CS Version 01.04.01
 - Recoding Specs V010400 updated 2/28/08

Organization Recommendations and Requirements for Implementation of CS Version 01.04.01

• Commission on Cancer (CoC)

Your software provider will provide instructions for updating to CS Version 01.04.01. If you have already implemented version 01.04.00, the new version will not require any additional conversions or registrar review. It is important, however, to rerun the CS algorithm on all CS-coded cases when you have it installed. If you have not yet implemented version 01.04.00, your software provider may just distribute version 01.04.01; however, you will still need to review the cases that were required for review for version 01.04.00. All registries will need to rerun the CS algorithm for all CS-coded cancers so that the derived values will be correct. Cases resubmitted during the remainder of the ongoing NCDB Call for Data may be coded either in version 01.03.00 or version 01.04.00. All

updates and recoded cases must be completed and in 01.04.01 form by the time of the NCDB Call for Data submission that begins in the fall of 2008.

- **National Cancer Institute–Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program (NCI-SEER)**
SEER recommends that participating central cancer registries work closely with their hospital registries to avoid duplication of effort in implementing CS version 01.04.01. SEER requires that version 01.04.01 be run on all cases before they are submitted for the November 1, 2008 SEER data submission. This supersedes the previous memo requiring 01.04.00. However, the new algorithm (version 01.04.01) should be run on all cases ASAP in order to have the CS derived fields for prostate and breast (histology 9020) correctly defined for both the hospital registries and the central cancer registry. There was an inconsistency in the document “CS V01.04.00 Detailed Guidelines for Recoding/Conversion of Existing Data” (<http://www.cancerstaging.org/cstage/index.html>) between page 1 of the specifications for breast cancer and the pseudocode on page 3. A new revised document with the correct pseudocode is available on the AJCC Web site CS Home Page in the “News: Announcements and Changes” section.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Program of Cancer Registries (CDC/NPCR)**
NPCR recommends that participating central cancer registries work closely with their hospital registries to avoid duplication of effort in implementing CS version 01.04.01. NPCR requires that the new calculation for version 01.04.01 be run on all cases before they are submitted for the January, 2009 data submission.
However, we also recommend that the new algorithm (version 01.04.01) be run on all cases as soon as possible, in both hospital and central registries, so that the CS derived fields for prostate and breast (histology 9020) will be correct whenever data are used.
Please note that there was a minor inconsistency in a document from the prior version, 01.04.00. The document "CS V01.04.00 Detailed Guidelines for Recoding/Conversion of Existing Data" has an inconsistency between the specifications for breast cancer on page 1 and the pseudocode on page 3. The pseudocode is correct. A new revised document is available on the AJCC Web site Collaborative Staging home page (<http://www.cancerstaging.org/cstage/index.html>).
- **Canadian Council of Cancer Registries (Statistics Canada–Canadian Cancer Registry)**
Revisions to the algorithm of CS version 01.04.00 have been made. The CCR recommends that the new CS version 01.04.01 be implemented as soon as possible in the Provincial/Territorial Cancer Registries. Beginning with cases diagnosed 1/1/2008, all cases must be coded using CS version 01.04.01. The review and conversion or recoding of 2004-2007 cases should be completed before the 2007 data submission to Statistics Canada in March 2009.

Vendor questions or general questions regarding the CS release can be submitted to Donna Gress, RHIT, CTR, AJCC Technical Specialist at ajcc@facs.org or dgress@facs.org, or to Tom Rawson, CS Programmer at tkr2@cdc.gov. All technical and coding questions regarding CS should be submitted to the Inquiry and Response System at <http://web.facs.org/coc/default.htm>.