

‘Trust of diagnosis’ and ‘Date of diagnosis’

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Introduction

The National Cancer and Registration and Analysis service (NCRAS) have developed algorithms to determine the ‘Trust of diagnosis’ using the various data feeds that they receive. The NPCA will allocate patients according to the NCRAS ‘Trust of diagnosis’ as identified by NCRAS using the algorithm outlined below.

Derived ‘Trust of diagnosis’

Determining the ‘Trust of diagnostic event’ for a cancer patient takes into account a variety of different events that are recorded by NCRAS along the patient pathway. The following process is followed:

Eligible events must occur between 1 day before and 183 days after the date of diagnosis [see derived ‘Date of Diagnosis’ below] to be included as a trust of diagnosis.

The date taken from the list of events is the one on or closest to the date of diagnosis. The trust associated with this event is therefore designated the ‘Trust of Diagnosis’.

In the event of a patient having **multiple events on the same date**, the following rules are used:

- If one event has a valid hospital code and the others do not, take the event with the valid code.
- Select an event based on the ranking system shown below. As an example, the preferred earliest event for first seeing a patient is the Biopsy event.
 1. Biopsy
 2. Surgical procedure
 3. Pathology (Non-biopsy)
 4. COSD Diagnosis Record
 5. Radiological Investigation
 6. MDT Discussion
 7. Referral
 8. Chemotherapy
 9. Radiotherapy
 10. Other Treatment
 11. Active Monitoring
 12. Cancer Care Plan Discussed
 13. Other investigations
 14. Death

- If there are still events on the same date, take a specific hospital (5 digit NACS code) over a general trust (3 digit NACS code).
- If there are two events from two hospitals from the same trust, use the general (3 digit) trust code.
- Finally if there are still multiple events, the derivation will first try to prioritise secondary centres over tertiary treatment centres. If this fails, the first trust alphabetically is selected.

Derived 'date of diagnosis'

The NCRAS 'date of diagnosis' is derived using the UK and Ireland Association of Cancer Registries (UKIACR) definition. The following date is used in order of declining priority:

- Date of first histological or cytological confirmation of this malignancy (with the exception of histology or cytology at autopsy). This date should be, in the following order: a. date when the specimen was taken, or b. date of receipt by the pathologist, or c. date of the pathology report
- Date of admission to hospital because of this malignancy.
- When evaluated at an out-patient clinic only: date of first consultation at the out-patient clinic because of this malignancy.
- Date of diagnosis, other than 1, 2 or 3.
- Date of death, if no information is available other than the fact that the patient has died because of malignancy.
- Date of death, if the malignancy is discovered at autopsy.