

Are You Looking for a Career in a Field with a Growing Job Demand?

Consider the Cancer Registry...

Cancer Registrars perform a variety of tasks. We are data management experts who report cancer statistics for various healthcare agencies. We work closely with physicians, administrators, researchers, and health care planners to provide support for cancer program development, and to ensure compliance of reporting standards. We serve as a valuable resource for cancer information with the ultimate goal of preventing and controlling cancer. Employment opportunities for Cancer Registrars exist at every level of the cancer surveillance community including regulatory agencies, accrediting organizations, researchers, pharmaceutical firms, software vendors and consulting service providers. Learn more about how you can join our team of cancer research professionals.

THE INDUSTRY *What is the Cancer Registry?*

Cancer Registry work involves the systemized collection of cancer data. Following diagnosis, a patient's medical record is abstracted into a uniform data set. The resulting national cancer data base is used by researchers, public health officials and providers and the general public.

TYPE OF PERSON *What type of person would fit well in the industry?*

You will enjoy this work if you can...

- Enjoy teamwork with professionals who are making a difference in patient care and cancer research
- Focus attention on detailed reports
- Adjust to changes (staff, locations, responsibilities, data rules and reporting requirements)
- Interact with and work closely with a variety of personalities
- Maintain conscientious work habits
- Develop your strengths and be prepared to contribute your ideas

OPPORTUNITIES *What are the job prospects in this industry? ...opportunities for advancement? ...career growth? ...salary expectations?*

We work in hospitals, labs, private offices, government, consulting services, education, software vendors, and pharmaceutical companies. According to recent studies, thousands more certified tumor registrars will be needed to staff a variety of positions. Many have entered registry work from other health-care departments. Others have taken up the profession thru education and training. Networking is guaranteed and it is quite possible for the Certified Tumor Registrar with a few years experience to move to other locations or obtain employment in related professions. In 2006 we usually earned \$33 -62,000 / year or \$15 -30 / hour.*

TYPICAL DAY *Describe a typical day in this industry...*

Multitasking is the best way to describe registry work. One sample day might find tumor registrars throughout the country involved in the following activities:

- Examining patient medical records for details and abstracting into the registry data base
- Editing and reviewing patient electronic records
- Reviewing pathology reports, both paper and online, in hospitals and state registries
- Doing patient follow-up by contacting physicians, reading obituaries, searching data bases and keeping a records of each one
- Organizing tumor board meetings with hospital officials and physicians
- Traveling locally or nationally to healthcare facilities for audits and patient care studies
- Conducting statistical analysis and producing annual reports
- Developing and beta testing online processes and computer software
- Attending national conventions
- Teaching, mentoring, and attending classes

EDUCATION AND REQUIREMENTS *What kind of education or vocational training do I need?*

Requirements have been revised to include a 2-year Associate Degree. The student must enroll in an NCRA accredited program and complete an internship to take the certification exam. (**See web-site below). It is possible to find employment in hospital and state cancer registries before certification. This will help the candidate to meet the requirements and pass the exam.

FURTHER INFORMATION *Where can I find more information about this industry?*

**<http://www.ncra-usa.org/>
<http://www.ahima.org/>
<http://seer.cancer.gov/>
<http://www.facs.org/index.html>
<http://www.naaccr.org/>
<http://oranjonline.com/>
<http://nj.gov/health/ces/njsr.shtml>
*<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/training/>