



# Greater Poland Cancer Registry

## Role of cancer registry workers in improving the documentation of cancer staging data

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### Background:

Gathering cancer staging data is an important task in many cancer registers. Cancer staging is crucial for epidemiological analyses involving effectiveness of primary prevention programs, screening methods, and oncological treatment outcomes. In the Greater Poland Cancer Registry, the main source of information on cancer staging is the cancer notification form. Additionally, in some cases this information is also gathered by studying medical records and pathology reports. The comparison of cancer staging data on cards sent in by physicians with data verified and entered into the database by cancer registry workers helps assess the role of cancer registry staff in documenting staging data.

### Methods:

The proportion of entries into the register with documented cancer staging filed in by physicians was compared between the cancer registry database for cases diagnosed in 2014 (13,407 records) and cases awaiting verification by the cancer registry team identified in 2016 (12,341 on-line KRN applications).

Statistical significance was analysed using the chi-squared test with a P value of <0.05.

### Results:

Analysis of cancer staging data showed a significant difference between information gathered and verified by cancer registry workers and information submitted by doctors, awaiting verification. In the first group, cancer staging data was fully documented in 59,19% of entries, while in the second group only 36,40% of entries were accurately completed. The difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.000001$ ).

### Discussion / Conclusion:

This study has shown that the cancer notification form cannot be the only source of information on cancer staging for the cancer registry, as data provided by the form is less comprehensive compared to staging data provided by the cancer registry team. The work, knowledge and experience of the registry staff, who use various sources of information such as medical records and pathology reports, significantly improve the accuracy and level of documentation of data on cancer staging.

