

2022 NPCR CANCER REGISTRY SUCCESS STORY

CANCER REGISTRY NAME: Missouri Cancer Registry and Research Center

STORY FOCI: **Creating an Online Canvas Fundamentals of Abstracting Course**

STORY CATEGORY (check one):

Public Health Impact

Operations

STORY TITLE: Use of project management tool for increased efficiency and project management in the Missouri Cancer Registry

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SUMMARY:

For many years, the Missouri Cancer Registry and Research Center provided a free in person educational workshop geared toward new or potential registrars called the “Fundamentals of Abstracting Workshop.” The class was held twice per year in the MCR office in Columbia, Missouri. Between 2 and 8 new registrars from the state of Missouri attended the workshop. The canvas online “Fundamentals of Abstracting Workshop” has enabled MCR to reach a much broader audience and double the number of attendees. There were multiple reasons why MCR went virtual:

- The Covid pandemic
- We wanted to reach more students
- We wanted to have the ability to host more than 2 workshops per year
- An online course could reach students beyond the state of Missouri

CHALLENGE:

The Education Coordinator and QA Supervisor were both new to using Canvas. With the help of the Director of MCR and training courses, we were able to create an online canvas course for the “Fundamentals of Abstracting” on the University of Missouri’s Canvas Platform. The course was based on the MCR Abstract Code Manual. It took several months to complete the PowerPoint presentations and associated VoiceThreads. All resource documents on the MCR website were updated as the course contains links to documents. It was difficult to enroll students who did not have a Gmail account. If they did not have a Gmail account, they had to create one. The Fundamentals of Abstracting Workshop is education new registrars on cancer registry coding rules. As a result, all the coding rules will have to be updated as changes occur.

SOLUTION:

The Education Coordinator and QA Supervisor attended several virtual classes on creating canvas courses. Our director, who was experienced in canvas, was able to create an initial unpublished course as a starting point for adding course content. The Fundamentals of Abstracting Workshop is geared towards new abstractors and is based on the Missouri Cancer Registry Abstract Code Manual. The Education Coordinator and QA Supervisor created PowerPoint presentations correlating to each chapter in the MCR Abstract Manual. Some chapters, like the treatment chapter, were so long they had to be broken down into multiple presentations. Before the chapters could be uploaded into Canvas, the PowerPoint presentations had to be saved as a PDF document. Each chapter of the MCR Abstract Code Manual is a VoiceThread assignment. A VoiceThread consists of a series of audio comments that are pre-recorded on each slide of a presentation. The pre-recorded VoiceThread presentation or assignments range from 6 minutes to over 25 minutes long. Students have the ability to view each Voice Thread multiple times and go through the course at their own pace. A "Grade Coding Instructions" video presentation created by another member of the QA team was also used in the course. After completing the Fundamentals of Abstracting Workshop students had the opportunity to use what they learned by abstracting five practice cases. The practice cases included case histories that were used as a mini-medical record. Students used the cases histories to abstract the practice cases. Students were given 6 weeks to complete the online "Fundamentals of Abstracting" course and practice cases.

RESULTS:

The online Canvas "Fundamentals of Abstracting" workshop was advertised in the MCR monthly newsletter and in the University of Missouri MU Info. Students sign up for the course through Sign-Up Genius. They are sent an invitation to the course from Academic IT Services. We have offered the online canvas "Fundamentals of Abstracting" course twice since its creation in the fall of 2021. Thirteen (13) students signed up for the first workshop and eleven (11) completed the first offering in January 2022. The course was offered again in April 2022. Fourteen (14) students signed up and thirteen (13) completed the course. Many students lived or worked in Missouri but most of the students that attended this workshop were from all across the United States and one was from Canada! Students like having the flexibility to complete the course at their own pace. They appreciated the VoiceThreads as they were able to rewind as needed.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS:

The following lessons learned can be integrated into creating and offering an on-line canvas course:

- The course content must be updated at least annually
- It is time consuming to update the course

- Most student prefer to pay via PayPal rather than the traditional check
- Some students will not complete the course

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