Improving Health System Cancer Staging Completion Rates in the EPIC Staging Module

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Background/Purpose:

- EPIC, electronic health record (EHR), system provides American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging module for clinical and pathologic staging for most solid tumors
- Accurate Cancer Staging Provides:
  - Appropriate selection of therapies in the multidisciplinary management of cancer
  - Clinical trial screening
  - Analysis of cancer outcomes
- Commission on Cancer (CoC) quality initiative of improving utilization of staging in the EPIC module

Methods:

- Created staging utilization report within Tableau that pulls completion data from EPIC
- Distributed baseline staging rates to providers
- Conducted mandatory education/training on staging module utilization
- Service line quality goal was established to improve rates of staging module utilization in the EPIC module
- Providers receive monthly updates to monitor progress

Results:

- Diagnosis codes for 350 common solid tumors were selected for the staging report
- Baseline utilization of the staging module in July 2022 was 53%
- After conducting education and establishing the quality goal, utilization increased to 79% in July 2023

Monthly Staging Rates
(based on the date the diagnosis is added to the EPIC problem list)

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Report Parameters

- Stageable cancer diagnoses on EPIC problem lists of patients with an oncology visit within the last year (Active cancer patients)
- Completion percentage of stageable cancer diagnoses in EPIC staging module
- Attributing provider is linked to the patient’s most recent office visit

Conclusion:

The goal to increase utilization of a standardized EPIC AJCC staging module was successful.

Keys to success:

- Reporting tool to help track progress
- Education and training
- Emphasis on CoC quality standards
- Individual provider’s quality performance metrics