

SEER*DMS Auto-Consolidation Work Group
Source Record Validation Subgroup
Teleconference Summary
November 21, 2019
3:00 to 4:00 p.m. EDT

Representatives from the NCI, IMS, the Scientific Consulting Group, Inc. (SCG), and 13 cancer registries participated in the SEER*DMS Auto-Consolidation Workgroup (WG) conference call on November 21, 2019. Participants included:

REGISTRIES:

Alaska
California Central
Connecticut
Detroit
Georgia
Idaho
Iowa
Louisiana
Minnesota
New Jersey
New York
Seattle
Utah

NCI: Peggy Adamo, Melissa Bruno

IMS: Suzanne Adams, Linda Coyle, Nicola “Nicki” Schussler, Alex Song, Jennifer Stevens

SCG: Carolyn Fisher, rapporteur

Action Items

Participants agreed to the following action items:

- Registries should review Squish issue #8017 titled, “Reviewing Edits in Source Records,” which includes data generated by SEER*DMS from the system task.
- Registries should review the source validation search data and identify the CTC fields that are changed most often.
- IMS will create a Squish issue for Radiation TX summary to collect information needed for auto-consolidation rules.
- IMS will update the Date of Diagnosis auto-consolidation rule to better handle CTCs with linked death certificates. Registry staff will be able to test the auto-consolidation logic for their data collected in recent years.

IMS Updates

Linda Coyle

Auto-Consolidation

IMS has been implementing auto-consolidation rules that compare values across all linked records. The old approach compared the field’s value on an incoming record to the value in the patient set. The Idaho and Kentucky registries are testing the new rules and providing feedback and suggestions for changes as well as identifying problems for IMS to resolve. IMS currently is working on a method for protecting data entered manually (outside of auto-consolidation). Linda agreed to provide an update on this and other tasks during the next WG call.

Source Record Validation and Record Edit Task

Linda reminded participants that IMS implemented a system task in SEER*DMS that runs edits on source records. This system task is not creating workflow tasks based on the edits triggered and has no impact on registry workflow. The system task simply documents failed edits and stores that information in a temporary table. The aim of the test is to review the edit failure data across registries. The WG discussed how best to use the information about failed edits. Linda proposed creating a set of edits for which a failure on the record would prevent auto-consolidation of patient- and/or tumor-level fields.

Linda's first approach was to review the failed edits and exclude those that were not directly relevant to the source record (e.g., edits to derived fields, Census tract, or central sequence numbers). Jennifer Stevens recommended reviewing edits for core data fields, including missing Date of DX, Histology, and Primary Site. Linda modified and ran the core data set search query across registries for 2016 data. The results revealed that a small percentage of records failed SEER edits, suggesting that running edits might not be sufficient for identifying source validation problems.

Linda suggested expanding the list of edits. Squish issue #8017 includes instructions for accessing the data search information. Registries should review the data search results and identify edits which the workgroup should consider adding to the set of edits which would prevent auto-consolidation.

Discussion

Participants generally agreed that the first step would be to evaluate existing problems and to focus on problematic data fields (and related fields) that would be involved in auto-consolidation. New edits could also be developed for this purpose.

The Minnesota registry staff edit source records routinely and use flags for each consolidated field to ensure that incoming data are free of errors. The registry staff also review and accept changes that are not subject to override without the appropriate review.

IMS will consider a second and broader data search to identify all edits that fail as well as trends across registries. Participants agreed that focusing on a single record type would be the best option.

Radiation Data Field and Auto-Consolidation

Linda Coyle and Nicki Schussler

For SEER*DMS users, the summarization polisher uses values from the treatment (TX) pages and calculates the summary TX values. When fields were added for Radiation in 2018, the summary polisher was updated, but with minimal changes. Changes were kept to a minimum because of the newness of the data field. The logic directs blank fields to use the values from the incoming record. The goal is to eliminate 0 and 9 values as well as blank fields—any true data conflicts are left up to the registry staff to resolve. IMS is willing to apply rules for summarization based on rules used by specific registries during manual consolidation or new rules proposed by WG members.

Discussion

Participants discussed existing Radiation TX manual consolidation rules and/or guidelines specific to their respective registries. The California Central registry uses Class of Case rules to govern TX fields and is beginning to focus on Radiation TX and developing multi-document consolidation logic. The Utah registry does not receive Class of Case data from radiation oncology facilities. The New York registry receives Radiation TX data, but these data can be incomplete because independent radiation oncology

facilities do not use the Class of Case logic. The New Jersey registry receives radiation oncology facility reports that do not indicate Class of Case.

Participants asked that date of treatment be included in the auto-consolidation rules because some facilities report data long after treatment and others report only data for second courses of treatment. Participants clarified that a single facility could be the source of the Radiation TX data for all courses of treatment, boost dose being the exception. IMS will create a Squish issue for Radiation TX summary to collect data on auto-consolidation rules.

Date of Diagnosis (DX)

Linda created data searches to test the auto-consolidation rules (non-edited cases) for Date of DX (Squish #7719). The data search returns a list of CTCs with a date of diagnosis different from what the auto-consolidation logic would return. She identified some issues with the rule, especially with CTCs that have linked death certificates.

Discussion

Linda asked registries about their interest in running the Date of DX data search and providing input on manual reviews and/or auto-consolidation rules.

Some registries use methods to automatically update the Date of DX. The Iowa registry will need the data search modified to eliminate medical/doctor's office (MDO) and DCOs cases. The Minnesota registry will need logic that excludes auditable and/or nonreportable records. IMS will improve the way that the auto-consolidation rule handles CTCs with linked death certificates and will notify registries when this task is completed.

Upcoming Auto-Consolidation Work Group Calls

Due to pending IMS work, participants agreed to cancel the December 19, 2019, Auto-Consolidation WG meeting. The next call is scheduled for January 16, 2020, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. and will focus on both auto-consolidation and source validation.