Certified Tumor Registry

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I have been doing research on the different career paths for Health Information Technology and out of everything that I have read or observed thru my internship, I know that do I do not want to be a coder, I might change my mind in the future. There's one certification that has caught my interest and that's becoming a Certified Tumor Registry. While doing my internship, I observed a lot of options, but I didn’t get chance to visit this area, but I can imagine that it would have been very interesting. Today I am going to share with you what a certified tumor registry is, the duties of a registrar, the qualifications and credentials need to be certified.

A certified tumor registrar is a system that collects and analyze data on people that has been diagnosed with cancer (http://www.ncra-usa.org/About/Cancer-Registry-Profession). There are different types of registries, they are as follow: Hospital registries, they keep information on every patient that has cancer or has been treated for cancer, central registries are based off population, and they look at the information of all patients within certain geographical areas and lastly special purpose registries, they only keep information on certain types of cancer (http://www.ncra-usa.org/About/Cancer-Registry-Profession). It's important to have these registries, they help getting treatments, funding and may help get more programs in their area. By keeping the information up to date in the system your area may qualify for more funding or programs to help patients that cannot afford to travel out of town or state.

As with any job you have your daily duties that you have to do, whether that is answering the phone, greeting patients as they come in the office, getting paper work together, you also have duties that has to be done no exceptions at all, a few of those duties are as follow: collect, maintain, and report cancer information for research, make sure that you follow state and federal reporting standards, prepare reports for physicians and administrators, keep a track of patient treatments and outcomes and keep up with accreditation standards. Doing all these things will benefit your facility, so that you are following the guidelines, make sure that you are not getting fined and most importantly you are doing what's best for your patient to make sure that they are getting all the necessary treatment that is needed.

One good thing about becoming certified is that you can do it from the privacy of your own home, you can do all the classes that are needed online and your convenience. you can get a job without being certified but your facility might ask for it sooner or later. to become certified, you would need to take some pre-requisite classes such as anatomy, physiology and human disease, computer basics in healthcare, medical terminology and pathophysiology/pharmacology, you also have some specialty courses that is broken into two groups that you will need to take. (http://www.ahima.org/education/onlineed/Programs/crm). The test has 225 multiple choice questions, you have open and closed books parts to the test, you have four hours to complete the test. you must have twenty hours of continuing education credits every two years and there is also an annual fee to pay, once you take the certification test please allow 6-8 weeks to process, once you have successfully passed you will be credentialed as CTR thru the NCRA.

In conclusion becoming a Certified Tumor Registry or Registrar is very interesting. You must take more classes, but I am up for a challenge. It's different, I can go to school at my pace why I am working in the health information technology field. I feel like you can never have too much education and you must think outside of the box, that you have the potential to help get funding for your patients, cancer program or maybe get a support group started. the little things can lead to something bigger. I know people who have or has had cancer, it's important to know exactly what you are dealing with. having that compassion to be there for others can make all the difference.

Bibliography

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