

UChicago Comprehensive Cancer Center No Smoker Left Behind Program (NSLB) Epic Cancer Population Registry Protocol

Background

The NSLB tobacco treatment program utilizes an Epic registry based on diagnostic codes to track new cancer patients. The Epic registry is used for internal metrics reporting and is distinct from the official cancer registry used for external reporting to state and federal agencies.

The official cancer registry has a lag-time due to time-intensive and manual verification of detailed medical information for inclusion. By contrast, the Epic registry updates every two weeks, allowing NSLB to maintain the accuracy and currency of their patient denominator for program operations and metrics reporting.

Data from the Epic registry are imported weekly into a TelASK the Quit Plan Manager system, a cloud-based system that manages a track-and-triage workflow that identifies patients' smoking status, proactively offers them cessation support, and documents their responses. [This publication](#) details the program design and clinical workflow of NSLB (Wakeman et al., 2026). The protocol below describes the build for the Epic registry.

Build

A disease registry (HFR) in Epic is used to track patient populations over time. An organization must be live on Healthy Planet to build a disease registry. The cancer population registry is a patient-level registry that updates every 14 days based on the patient's active problem list at that point in time. Patients are included if they have an active cancer diagnosis on the problem list in the EHR. A diagnosis (EDG) record list contained in a grouper (VCG) is maintained on the application side for this inclusion criterion. An additional inclusion criterion is that the patient is not deceased.

- Cancer population registry (HFR)
 - Inclusion rule CER
 - Using properties (HFP)
 - [IS DIAGNOSIS IN PROBLEM LIST \[82268\]](#)
 - EDG grouper (VCG) of ICD cancer diagnoses
 - Active status
 - Patient Living Status [2100]
 - $\diamond$ Deceased

The screenshot displays the Epic Logic Builder interface. On the left, the 'Criteria' table is configured with two rows:

Criteria	Property	Operator	Value
1	Is Diagnosis in Problem List Statuses: Active [1] Grouper ID: EDG ONCOLOGY DX MASTER [1753000]	=	Yes [1]
2	Patient Living Status	≠	Deceased [2]

Below the table is an 'Add' button. On the right, the 'Line 1 Property Column' details are shown for the selected criterion 'Is Diagnosis in Problem List [82268]'. It includes the 'Statuses' (Active [1]), 'Grouper ID' (EDG ONCOLOGY DX MASTER [1753000]), and 'Property Details' explaining that this property compares diagnosis records in the patient's problem list against the grouper record, considering only diagnoses with selected statuses.

The Epic registry population is brought into a Clarity database at a patient level and forms the basis of a Clarity-based extract to the TelASK Quit Plan Manager system described above and in [Wakeman et al.](#)