

# Category A Requirement for ODS Credential Maintenance

**WHAT:** ODS-certified individuals are required to comply with the continuing education (CE) standard as set forth by NCRA's Council on Certification. At least four (4) of the required 20 CE hours must fall within "Category A" which covers the specific topic(s) of: **directly assigned stage**, **extent of disease**, and/or **site-specific coding principles**.

**WHO/WHEN:** All current ODS-certified individuals will be required to comply with this mandatory CE policy. The **Category A** requirement went into effect January 2017.

**HOW:** Four (4) **Category A** CE credits are needed as part of an ODS-certified individual's 20 CE credit minimum. Credential holders are encouraged to tailor much of their continuing education to the role they perform in their daily work. **Category A** credits are to be submitted along with other completed CE credits during the CE Cycle.

An ODS-certified individual may complete training(s) from any provider(s) on **Category A** topics to attain the required CE content. To qualify for CE credits, content must improve or expand the existing base of knowledge or skills of the ODS-certified individual.

## Examples of typical activities for Category A credit

### • **Directly assigned stage**

#### **SEER Summary Stage**

Activities under this topic may include instructions that define directly assigned SEER Summary Stage, including guidelines and code structure (e.g. in situ, localized, regional by direct extension, regional lymph nodes, regional by direct extension and regional lymph nodes, regional NOS, and distant).

#### **SEER Extent of Disease**

Activities under this topic may include education that defines SEER Extent of Disease (EOD) Data Collection and instructions and methods for the different data elements for this system.

#### **AJCC Clinical, Pathological, and Post-therapy or Post Neoadjuvant Therapy Staging**

Activities under this topic would define the TNM categories and stage group requirements for clinical, pathological, and post-treatment staging, anatomy (e.g. prostate), regional lymph nodes, metastatic sites and prognostic factors/indicators (e.g. Gleason score, Prostate-specific antigen).

### • **Site specific coding**

Activities under this topic may include training relevant to coding data items specific to primary site, such as Site-Specific Data Items (previously Site Specific Factors).



Council on Certification

## **Category A FAQs**

### **Q1: Which CE Cycle does the new Category A requirement take effect?**

A1: Starting with the CE Cycle ending 12/31/17. CE credits completed in 2016 covering Category A - directly assigned stage and/or site-specific coding principles - will be accepted.

### **Q2. Why was this specific-topic CE requirement initiated?**

A2: The goal of this continuing education requirement is to ensure ODS-certified individuals are staying current on these ever-changing topic areas.

### **Q3: Do NAACCR recorded webinars fall under the Category A requirement?**

A3: Yes. NAACCR site-specific Webinars could meet Category A requirements. Consider connecting with your state association for access to NAACCR webinar(s).

ODS-certified individuals are responsible to properly credit attended sessions per the actual amount of time elapsed, so a 2 hours:25 minute session accounts as a 2:15 session = 2.25 CE credits, **\*NOT\*** 2.5 CE credits. In calculating CE credits, credit will be awarded to the completed quarter-hour. After the first 30 minutes, ODS certified individuals may claim quarter-hour (15 minutes) increments for CE credits. **EXAMPLE: 45 minutes = 0.75 CE credits; 1 hour: 15 minutes = 1.25 CE credits**

### **Q4: Will there be any additional ODS certification maintenance costs to submit the required Category A CE credits?**

A4: No. The annual fee for CTR Certification Maintenance remains at \$35 (member-rate).

### **Q5: How will ODS-certified individuals know if a program offered/offers Category A CE credits for NCRA-approved programs?**

A5: Starting in 2017, NCRA's Program Recognition Committee provides Category A specific hours to program hosts. Category A credits on NCRA-approved program agendas will also be listed separately on the spreadsheet.

### **Q6: I am an ODS-certified individual, but I do not abstract anymore in my primary job. Do I still need to comply with this Category A requirement?**

A6: Yes. It's vital to stay abreast of these ever-changing topics. Moreover, ODS-certified individuals should stay current on these topics if/when they may leave their current employment situation.

### **Q7: How will ODS certified individuals submit their Category A CE credits?**

QA: ODS certified individuals will be required to separately submit the Category A trainings when they submit CE credits for their CE Cycle. As always, retain attendance documentation in case your CE submission is audited.

### **Q8: Would a continuing education program covering review of current AJCC staging for lung cancer and site-specific prognostic indicators which is held on site for physicians and allied health professionals satisfy this requirement?**

A8: Yes.

### **Q9: Would completing exercises on AJCC and SEER Educate count towards the Category A CE requirement?**

A9: Yes. As always, retain completion documentation in case your CE submission is audited.

### **Q10: For a 60-minute site-specific training on lung, how many Category A CE credits would be available?**

A10: One (1) Category A CE credit. If it's a site-specific training, then the entire training event would be accepted as Category A. It is your responsibility to properly document training(s) attended per the actual amount of time elapsed. Programs that are not CE-eligible would not be eligible for Category A.

### **Q11: Would AJCC TNM webinars be acceptable for Category A CE credits?**

A11: Yes.

### **Q12: Will Extent of Disease topics be acceptable for Category A CE's?**

A12: Yes.