

# MACHINE-READABLE LABORATORY NOTIFICATION TO THE FINNISH CANCER REGISTRY

INSTRUCTIONS 12.1.2007

Finnish Cancer Registry  
Pieni Roobertinkatu 9  
FIN-00130 Helsinki

Phone. +358-9-135 33 267  
Fax +358-9-135 5378  
E-mail [hilkka.laasanen@cancer.fi](mailto:hilkka.laasanen@cancer.fi)

It is possible to send laboratory notifications in machine-readable form on CD-R disk or using ftp-protocol. If you prefer to use other media, please contact Hilkka Laasanen.

To be able to do cancer notifications automatically the information system of the laboratory has to include following components:

- 1) It has to include variables listed in the following pages.
- 2) It has to have include rules to pick up diagnoses of cancers and cancer-like conditions that have to be reported to cancer registry (see the instruction letter of Medical Board of Health Nr 6/1990).
- 3) It has to have an output option to produce the cancer notification one of the three alternative formats described in the following pages.
- 4) It has to have a book keeping system to keep track on records that have already been sent.

## HEADER RECORD

The first record of the file should contain the following information (maximum 240 characters):

- notifier (name of laboratory, contact person and address)
- number of notifications
- creation date of the file and notification period

The information from the header record will appear as such on logfile listings

## CANCER NOTIFICATIONS

The notifications should be written in consecutive records of the file (5 records/notification) either as

- 1) file with fixed columns, fields in fixed positions left-justified (record length 255 characters)
- 2) file with variable columns, fields are separated by a special character: the field separator, usually  $\wedge$  (circumflex). In this case the meaning of a field is defined by its position in the record. The positions of the fields are indicated in parentheses under the column numbers.
- 3) You can also create a file where each field of a notification appears on its own line. Missing fields are indicated by an asterisk in column one. The relative position of a field is indicated in angled brackets ( $\langle \rangle$ ) in the following description. One notification consists of 18-25 lines depending on the amount of supplementary information. Each notification as well as the header record should be on its own page, i.e. separated by a `<Form Feed>`.

In case you need more information on computer-technical questions please contact Hilikka Laasanen or Jussi Orpana. In case of questions on medical matters please contact Dr Risto Sankila. The phone number is +358-9-135 331

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COLUMN (order.)	INFORMATION	FORMAT/COMMENTS
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## 1. RECORD

### INFORMATION ON PATIENT

1-11 (1/1)	Personnumber < 1, line >	ddmmyyCcccx dd day of birth mm month of birth yy year of birth C century of birth + = 1800 - = 1900 A = 2000 ccc number assigned by (VRK) x = check digit (VRK rule)
12-61 (1/2)	Name < 2. Line >	LASTNAME,FIRST NAMES (max 50 characters)
62-101 (1/3)	Previous name < 3. Line >	E.g. maiden name (max 40 characters)
102 (1/4)	Gender < 4. line >	Code: 0 = male 1 = female
103-120 (1/5)	Municipality < 5. line >	Code or name of municipality
121-160 (1/6)	Remitting hospital < 6. Line >	Code, common abbreviation or complete name
161-200 (1/7)	Remitting physician and ward < 7. Line >	preferred form is LASTNAME,FIRST NAME/ward (max 40 characters)

## 2. RECORD

### INFORMATION ON SPECIMEN

1 (2/1)	Type of specimen < 8. line >	Code: 1 = autopsy 2 = histological specimen 3 = cell specimen 9 = no information
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2-31 (2/2)	Identification < 9. Line >	Number of specimen according to system of laboratory, max 30 characters
32-37 (2/3)	Date of analysis < 10. line >	ddmmyy
38-97 (2/4)	Primary site < 11. line >	Plain text, preferable not derived from code (max 60 characters); code may be attached to text as an additional information
98 (2/5)	Object of PAD < 12. line >	Code: 1 = primary tumour 2 = metastasis 9 = no information
99-228 (2/6)	PAD < 13. line >	Plain text, not derived from code (max 130 characters)

### 3. RECORD

1-40 (3/1)	Pathologist < 14. line >	Preferable form LASTNAME, FIRST NAME (max 40 characters)
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### OTHER INFORMATION

41-105 (3/2)	Clinical diagnosis < 15. line >	Plain text, not derived from code (max 65 characters)
106-170 (3/3)	Other cancers < 16. line >	Description (max 65 characters) if other cancers known
171-173 (3/4)	Notifying laboratory < 17. line >	Three letter code assigned by the cancer registry. (please ask us)

### 4. RECORD

1-250 (4/1)	Supplementary information < 18.-25.lines>	Plain text (max 2 x 250 characters) giving further information on the specimen and/or tumour  If there are no supplementary information 4. record. and/or 5. record must be blank
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### 5. RECORD

1-250 (5/1)	Supplementary information	
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