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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

THE NEVADA CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY RECEIVES GOLD STANDARD FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

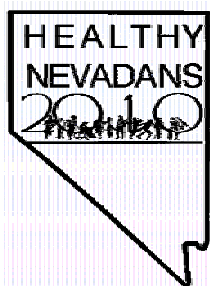
Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division announced today that the Nevada Central Cancer Registry has again received Gold Certification for 2002 cancer data from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, Inc. (NAACCR).

“The continued dedication of the Nevada Central Cancer Registry staff is commendable,” said Alex Haartz, Administrator, Nevada State Health Division. “This year, staff overcame a major challenge implementing a new electronic pathology reporting system, enabling them to process thousands of pathology reports in a more timely and efficient process.”

Since 1995, the Nevada Central Cancer Registry has been part of the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR), which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NAACCR has set data standards for which NPCR cancer registries must attain in order to obtain silver or gold certification. The Nevada Central Cancer Registry met and exceeded these stringent standards for the third straight year. This year, 62 state or regional registries submitted their 2002 data for evaluation to NAACCR. Forty-five received Gold Certification and six received Silver Certification. The remaining 11 registries did not qualify for certification.

Karen Power, Program Manager for the Nevada Central Cancer Registry said, “The outstanding efforts of the hospital registry staff, pathology laboratories, physician offices and other outpatient facilities has enabled us to achieve this gold certification and improve the reporting of cancer in the most accurate and efficient manner.”

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